

**Sec of Ag
Mike Johanns
2007 Farm Bill**

Sir

The Nebraska RC&D association wishes to place these documents into consideration in relation to the 4-5-6 numbered question you are seeking input on the 2007 Farm bill.

The 375 Authorized councils around the nation do provide one of the best interface opportunities for the public with the Federal programs that currently exist that address the areas below. Understanding and facilitating these programs to meet local identified needs is one of the many responsibilities of RC&D councils. In Nebraska we have a return on investment of over \$22 to 1 in 2004. Programs that deal with the four focus areas RC&D's are charged to address. Please review the booklet enclosed and noted the many ways we engage local citizens in programs.

Should you have questions feel free to contact our association for further detailed examples of our activities?



**Michael K Williams
Neb State RC&D Association**

Question 4: The achievement of conservation and environmental goals.

While producing food and fiber are essential functions, agriculture also plays a major role in natural resource stewardship. Some have suggested that future farm policy might be anchored around the provision of tangible benefits such as cleaner water and air. Such an approach may be consistent with future World Trade Organization obligations on domestic support to agriculture, while also expanding farm programs to extend more broadly across agriculture, including private forest lands.

How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Question 5: The enhancement of rural economic growth.

Farming and rural America once were almost synonymous. Over the years, the demographic and economic characteristics of rural areas have changed, as has farming's role in the rural economy. This raises the issue of whether more Government attention should be focused on investing in the infrastructure in rural America (for example, investing in new technologies).

How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Question 6: The opportunities to expand agricultural products, markets, and research.

Changes in farm and market structure over past decades have led to suggestions that farm policy could be more flexible by enabling greater support for a broader range of activities helpful to agriculture market expansion. Examples are: attention to product quality and

new attributes; organic and specialty crops; value-added products, including renewable energy and bioproducts and new uses for farm products generally; expanded basic and applied research; domestic and foreign market development; and similar activities. How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?



Nebraska RC&D Association Inc

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September 13, 2005

The Honorable Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Subject: Support for the Resource, Conservation and Development Councils

Dear: Honorable Johanns

I am Mike Williams representing the Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Association and wanted to thank you for your past support and are now asking for continued support in the future.

There are 385 RC&D Councils in the United States and its territories of which there are 12 in the state of Nebraska. Having 12 fully funded RC&D Councils in NE is crucial to the conservation and economic needs in the state, counties and communities. These volunteer non-profit councils lead by volunteers has been a tremendous asset to the state of NE as they have developed strategies that are truly grass roots in nature and reflect the needs of the local communities and counties they serve. If we are going to revitalize rural America the RC&D component is vital in spearheading commendable goals and objectives for our state and nation.

(A sample success story) Your choice Mike

The Nebraska RC&D Association is here today to request continued support for a highly successful program.



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Thank you for joining us as we explore the twelve Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Association's activities and accomplishments during the past year. You will find that each Council has a dedicated professional staff and volunteers that are committed to "Where the Better Life Begins".

The Nebraska RC&D Association appreciates the continuing support received from our Congressional Delegation, USDA, the Nebraska Governor, State Legislature, local NRD's, counties, municipalities, sponsors and associate members. This year the return on investment came to twenty-two dollars back in benefits from each dollar invested.

The highlights for 2004 are:

- Accepting the Statewide Drug Awareness program as one of its projects. The goal is to educate and train adults and teenagers in our communities about the dangers of drug addiction and its impact on the user's life and family.
- Participated in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Nebraska's "Nebraska Rural Initiative" and the Nebraska RC&D to better coordinate activities between the two organizations. The MOU should increase effectiveness in bringing programs of value to our communities with leadership training, conducting and interpreting surveys and encouraging our youth through internships to become more involved in the future of Nebraska.
- Planning for the 2006 Western RC&D Associations conference to be held in Nebraska. The conference will give all twelve Councils the opportunity to showcase Nebraska.

A special thanks to Steve Chick, Nebraska NRCS State Conservationist and Ken Noonan, Nebraska NRCS State Program Director for their commitment to help make the Nebraska RC&D Program a success.

Thanks also goes to the 2004 Nebraska RC&D Executive Committee comprised of Bob Porter, Vice Chairman; Dena Beck, Secretary; Mike Williams, Treasurer and Lowell Daisley, Past Chairman for their job performance as they did an outstanding job in 2004.

Sincerely Yours

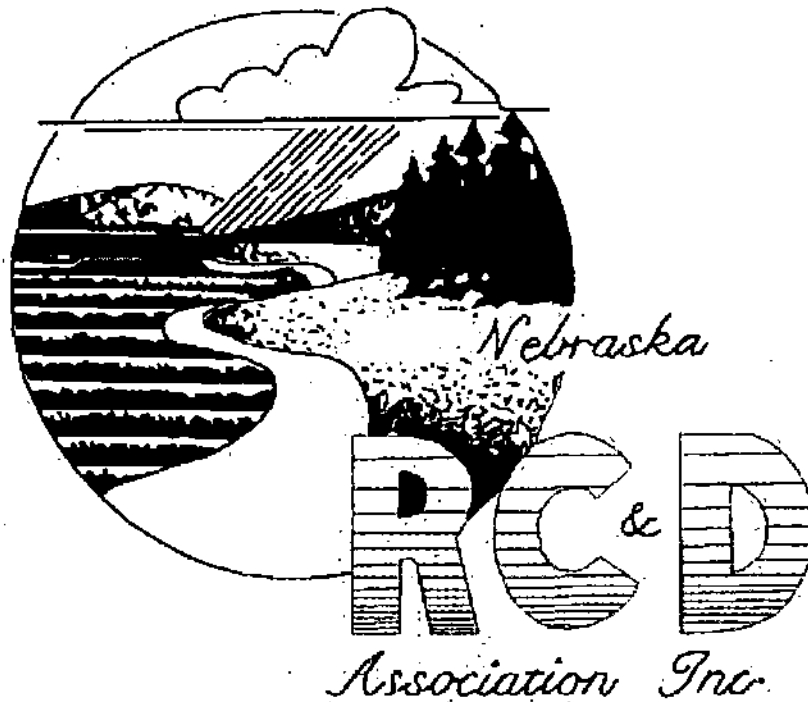
Ted Tietjen
Ted Tietjen, Chairman

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Nebraska RC&D Association



www.nercd.com

Vision:

To be a quality partner in achieving a better way of life for all Nebraskans

Mission:

To serve Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils in achieving their goals

Nebraska RC&D Association Annual Conference

The Nebraska RC&D Association held its 2004 annual conference Oct. 5-7 at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City. The Loess Hills Nebraska RC&D hosted the conference.

The theme for the conference was "Lewis and Clark - Opportunities and Discovery." This theme was present in several of the activities planned during the conference.

Tours of the "Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center", "Lewis and Clark State Park", "Sergeant Floyd Monument" and the "Lewis and Clark Riverboat Museum and Welcome Center" showed the area's deep history surrounding the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The meeting also highlighted the rich American Indian heritage in the area. The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa provided a Blessing and Cedaring Ceremony the opening day of the conference. The Winnebago Tribe performed a Tribal Blessing and Cedaring Ceremony during the opening of the second day of the conference.

There were several in attendance at the conference. Representatives from all twelve RC&D areas in Nebraska attended as well as several individuals from partner agencies.

The conference provided the opportunity for professional development. Attendees selected from several training session, such as: Roles and Responsibilities for Board Members of Nonprofit Organizations, Accounting Practices for Board Members of Nonprofit Organizations and RC&D Council Self Promotion or Lobbying Restrictions for 501(c)3 Organizations.

Speakers at this year's conference included Karen Ott, landowner from the Nebraska Panhandle and Gerald Willis, Assistant to NRCS Chief Bruce Knight.

The annual conference provided RC&Ds an opportunity to showcase some of the many projects they have been working on throughout 2004. RC&Ds had table top displays showing photos and highlights from some of their many projects.



Mike Williams presents Karen Ott with the Spirit of Nebraska Award during the Association's annual conference. Ott was one of the featured speakers.



The Nebraska RC&D Association Board studies the annual reports during the annual conference business meeting.



The Welcoming Committee at the 2004 RC&D Association Annual Conference (L-R) Ted Tietjen, Lee Campbell, Mike Berger, Jon Bailey and Kent Neumann. Campbell and Berger are members of the Lewis & Clark Honor Guard.

Five Rivers RC&D

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Vision: Recognizing the value of the region, the Five Rivers RC&D serves as a model of positive, proactive leadership for continued growth and prosperity.

Mission: To educate citizens, develop leadership and revitalize the area through cooperative partnerships and leveraged resources.

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Five Rivers RC&D

Area Description

Five Rivers RC&D encompasses eight counties in the southeast corner of the state: Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson and Saline.

The area is characterized by wooded, rolling hills, numerous streams and some areas of steep escarpments.

The median population of its numerous rural communities is about 240, with a total area population of roughly 85,000 that has remained fairly constant over the past 10 years. Growth in minority populations in some counties has helped offset other population losses. Although area towns are small, they are not severely isolated; most are within a 1 - 1 1/2 hour drive of the state's two metropolitan areas of Omaha and Lincoln.

Priorities of Five Rivers RC&D

A new five-year Area Plan was adopted in 2003, focusing on four primary objectives:

- Progressive Rural Communities
- Safe, Healthy and Productive Environment
- Tourism and Recreation Opportunities
- Viable and Sustainable Farms and Businesses

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 11 Projects completed this fiscal year
- 34 Projects on-going at fiscal year-end
- 28 Project Partners
- 12 Council Meetings
- 746 Council Member hours contributed
- 530 Volunteer hours contributed

2004 Project Highlights

One-time Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection

Five Rivers RC&D successfully applied for funds to conduct nine half-day HHW collections in its eight-county area in March and May, 2004. Acids, antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint, pesticides, solvents and a few miscellaneous chemicals found their way from the basements and garages of approximately 1,100 area residents to the local collection sites. A total of 206 area volunteers helped the Red Willow County (NE) Hazardous Waste Collection Team deal with the materials. The Red Willow Team then hauled all but the batteries and oil back to McCook for proper disposal.

The 46,000 pounds of lead acid vehicle batteries collected were sold to recyclers to raise funds for local organizations. Participating counties

retained the oil for their used oil collection programs. Surveys collected during the events indicate that more HHW collections are needed.

Partners

- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson and Saline counties

Funds

State	\$ 33,773
RC&D (in-kind)	\$ 2,350
RC&D (cash)	\$ 1,300

2004 Project Photos



Cooperative Winery

Arbor Trails Winery opened for business May 1, 2004 and is exceeding its sales projections. The new business employs three individuals and provides a market for the grapes and other fruits grown by its 20 members.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

A hazardous materials handler from Red Willow County, (NE) empties aerosol cans while one of over 30 local volunteers opens paint cans at the Nemaha County Household Hazardous Waste collection held in Auburn on March 20, 2004.



Lewis and Clark Promotion

Five Rivers RC&D coordinated the construction and installation of a Lewis and Clark directional sign for the Village of Brownville. The sign was partially funded by a grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation and local donors.



Southeast Nebraska Tourism Council (SENTC)

SENTC will market its 12-county region in seven regional travel publications during 2005 thanks to a grant obtained with the help of Five Rivers RC&D.

Fiscal Year '04 Completed Projects

Project #	Project Name	RC&D Share	Other	Total Cost
98-100	Southeast Nebraska Alternative Crops Ass'n.	11,294	3,500	14,794
99-122	Redcedar Management Study	820	2000	2,820
00-147	Wirth Bros. Lake Road Improvement	135	4,865	5,000
01-155	Cooperative Winery	16,218	483,782	500,000
02-171	July 15, 1804	1,260	1,480	2,740
02-173	Meriwether-Lewis AmeriCorps NCCC Team	340	49,660	50,000
02-176	Alternative Food and Farming Initiative	3,348	7,657	11,005
03-182	2003 Byway Campaign	4,000	1,700	5,700
03-183	Brownville Strategic Planning	900	200	1,100
03-186	2003 State RC&D Association Meeting	2,460	6,800	9,260
03-191	Byway Auto Tour Grant Funds Administration	500	7,800	8,300
03-192	Saline County CEDS	1,260	2,975	4,235
	Totals	\$42,535	\$572,419	\$614,954

Fiscal Year '04 On-Going Projects

Project #	Project Name	RC&D Share	Other	Total Cost
96-47	Southeast Nebraska Grassland Association	3,075	8,460	11,535
98-97	Duck and Buck Creek Watershed Structures	6,000	494,000	500,000
99-123	EDGE Training	10,000	40,000	50,000
01-164	Serecia Lespedeza Task Force	90	0	90
03-185	Circle Tours	280	0	280
03-194	One-time Household-Hazardous Waste Collection	2,350	57,291	59,641
03-195	Direct Marketing Handbook	280	0	280
03-196	Sustainable Farming & Food Mentoring	0	0	0
03-198	SENTC Logo Grant Application	250	7,250	7,500
04-199	Vineyard Workshops	105	175	280
04-200	Small Communities-Big Opportunities Workshop	2,407	3,993	6,400
04-201	2004 Byway Marketing Campaign	840	1,460	2,300
04-202	Drug Awareness Task Force	350	200	550
04-203	Wine School II	1,400	6,000	7,400
04-204	Used Computer Collection	1,400	3,400	4,800
04-205	Brush/Weed Management	1,050	0	1,050
04-206	Regional Water Supply Awareness	1,400	0	1,400
04-207	Community Gardens	280	0	280
04-208	School Lab Chemical Collection	560	0	560
	Totals	\$32,117	\$622,229	\$654,346

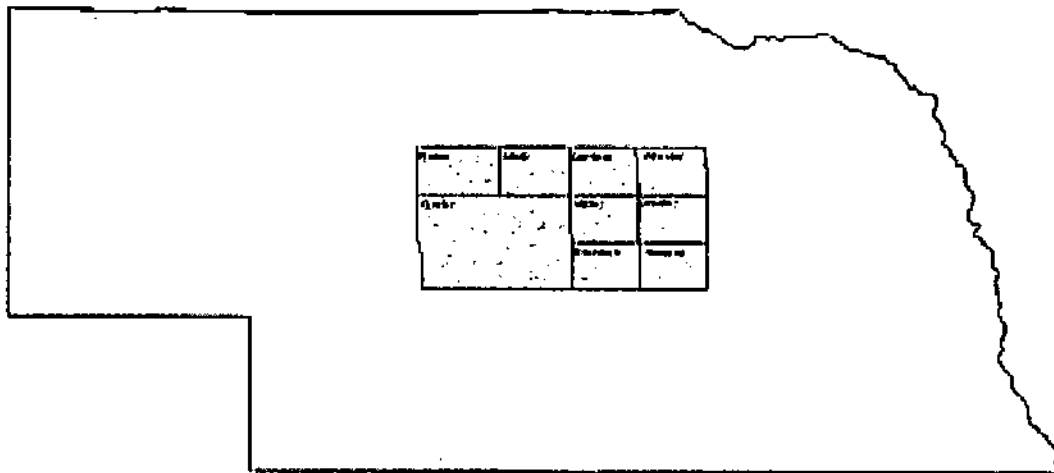
Future Project Needs

Project #	Project Name	RC&D Share	Other	Total Cost
98-97	Duck and Buck Creek Watershed Structures	1,000	500,000	501,000
99-123	EDGE Training	1,000	10,000	11,000
01-164	Serecia Lespedeza Task Force	0	0	0
03-185	Circle Tours	0	0	0
03-195	Direct Marketing Handbook	1,000	6,000	7,000
03-196	Sustainable Farming & Food Mentoring	1,500	5,000	6,500
04-199	Vineyard Workshops	250	250	500
04-202	Drug Awareness Task Force	1400	250	1650
04-205	Brush/Weed Management	500	500	1000
04-206	Regional Water Supply Awareness	5,000	245,000	250,000
04-208	School Lab Chemical Collection	700	13,000	13,700
NEW	Wine School III	1,400	4,500	5,900
NEW	Tourism Promotion	1,000	4,000	5,000
NEW	Alternative Ag Workshop	15,000	5,000	20,000
	Totals	\$29,750	\$793,500	\$823,250

Loup Basin RC&D



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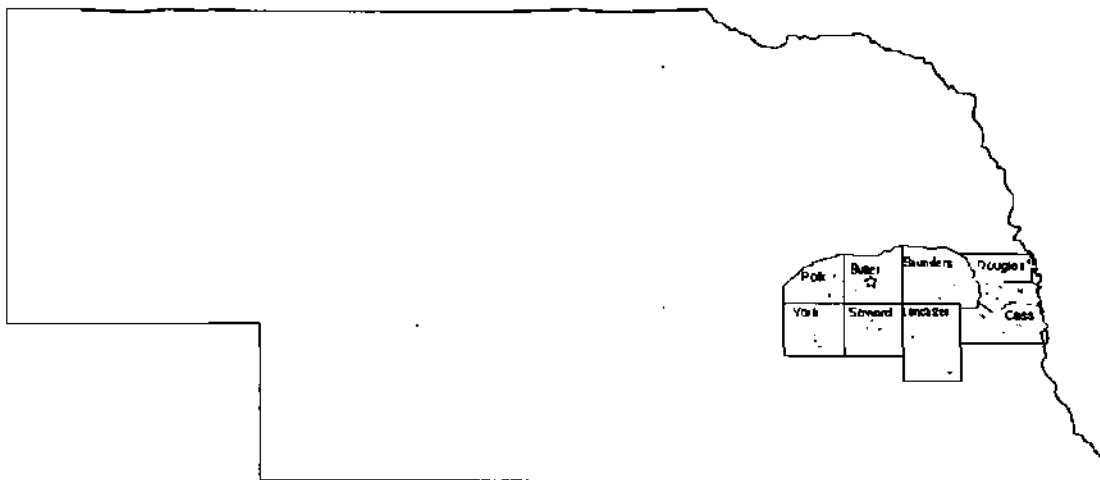
Vision: To be a vibrant, dynamic, progressive region by helping local people turn ideas into reality.

Mission: To sustain our quality of life and to work cooperatively to successfully address economic, environmental and social issues.

Nebraska Great Plains RC&D



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Vision: To educate citizens, develop leadership, and revitalize the area through cooperative partnerships and leveraged resources.

Mission: Serve as models of positive, proactive leadership for other rural towns in the Midwest region to share resources, successes and opportunities to energize the area.

Malcolm Community Action Coalition

On April 1, 2004, a group of approximately 65 concerned Malcolm community members met to discuss issues concerning youth drug and alcohol abuse and bullying. At this meeting, a representative from the State Incentive Cooperation Agreement (SICA) presented the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey results from 2003. The survey results enforced the recognition of youth drug/alcohol issues in the community, and strengthened the commitment to improve prevention strategies, creating the Malcolm Community Action Coalition (MAC).

The Nebraska Great Plains RC&D assisted the MAC by providing a facilitator to develop the vision and mission statement, the by-laws, a logo, posters and brochures. The RC&D provides financial assistance for the coalition using its non profit status as a way to administer the funds procured by this group, including grants. A brochure for the MAC was developed by the RC&D, as were several fact sheets, highlighting findings of the Student Risk Survey. These were made available to the public at the Governors Conference on Methamphetamine, another council project, as an example of a local group working to solve problems in their community.

The RC&D worked with the coalition to promote a car show fund-raiser in Malcolm in August, 2004. This event raised \$5000.00 for the community. The MAC had a booth and display at this event, assisted by the RC&D.

The MAC secured a grant to create a SMART Moves program in Malcolm. SMART Moves, a program of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, is a primary prevention program aimed at helping young people resist tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use, as well as delaying sexual activity. SMART is an acronym which stands for Skills Mastery and Resistance Training.

Several Malcolm youth, parents and community members participated in an all-day training session in October 2004. The RC&D had a volunteer participate in this training event. With these trained youth and adult volunteers, the MAC is moving ahead with more activities and opportunities, including the following initiatives:

- Character and Leadership Development
- Education and Career Development
- The Arts
- Sports, Fitness and Recreation

You can find out more about this group by checking the website at www.malcolmcommunityactioncoalition.org

Centerville Year-Round Farmers Market

The spring of 2003 was the grand opening of the Centerville Year Round Farmers Market, located in the Haymarket, at 8th and Q streets in Lincoln. The opening of this market was the goal of a group of local food producers within 150 miles of Lincoln. These producers teamed up with the Nebraska Great Plains RC&D to apply for and receive a grant for \$15,000 from the State of Nebraska's LB-1348 funds to prepare a feasibility study for an indoor, year round farmers market in downtown Lincoln. This study came

back positive, which lead towards the application for and awarding of a \$60,000.00 grant for equipment to start the market, again from the State of Nebraska's LB-1348 funds. Vendors from three states have brought products to this market, which allows them to extend their growing and marketing seasons from the traditional six month outdoor farmer's market schedule. Two full-time and 10 part time positions were created with the opening of this market.

Butler and Cass County Used Tire Collection

The Nebraska Great Plains RC&D worked with 15 local volunteers from Butler and Cass counties to plan, prepare, and submit a grant application to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) for a used tire collection. This application was approved to collect up to 250 tons of tires in both counties. Over 537 tons

of tires were collected in both counties. An extra \$2,631 was later received from NDEQ to pay for the additional tires collected. An effort to apply for a grant to have another collection in 2005 is underway by the same group of volunteers.

Governor's Conference on Methamphetamine

This project is a result of cooperation between the Nebraska Great Plains RC&D and the Nebraska State RC&D Association. We were asked to assist with the development of a tabletop display for the two day conference, held at the

Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, on September 8th and 9th, 2004. Over 230 people were in attendance, including law enforcement, health officials, community action groups, social service agencies, realtors, and educators.

Klein Center Lighting Project, Brainard

Assisted the community of Brainard, NE with a grant application to Wal-Mart to fund a lighting system along 150 feet from the street to the church hall, correcting a safety concern of pedestrian traffic at night. This hall is used for church and community functions, is a blood

collection site, and is designated as the primary disaster relief site for the village of Brainard. A grant was received for \$500.00, and construction of this lighting system was completed in August, 2004.

Festival of Healthy Living

The Nebraska Great Plains RC&D partnered with the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society (NSAS) and the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) to sponsor the Festival of Healthy Living at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. The RC&D worked on promotion of the event, contacting radio, TV, newspapers and magazines. We secured a speaker from Wyoming for this event, who talked about the ben-

efits of agro-tourism. The RC&D also provided technical assistance with equipment use, i.e. power point, slide projectors, etc. We set up a tabletop display about the Nebraska Great Plains RC&D, showing pictures of completed projects, and handed out pamphlets and brochures. The RC&D found sponsors to donate items for an auction benefiting sponsoring organizations. Over 1200 people attended this event.

Middle School Career Fair

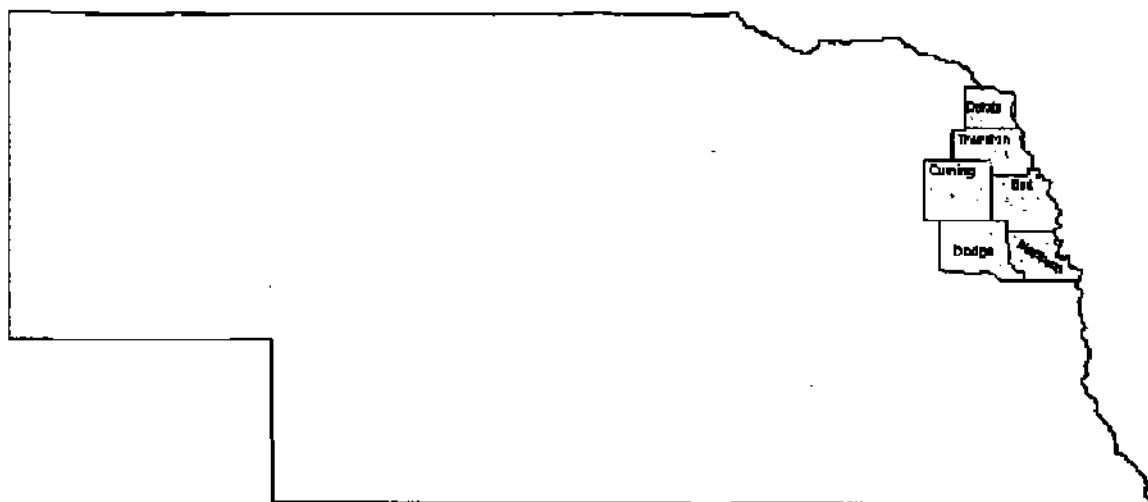
The Nebraska Great Plains RC&D was asked to assist with a project to encourage urban youth to realize how much agriculture affects their life on a day to day basis. The intent of this project is to plant a seed in these students to consider studying agriculture and science in high school and college, as well as consider working in a related

field after completing their education. The RC&D partnered with the NRCS Civil Rights committee and Omaha Public Schools to staff a booth at this career fair, held at Omaha Northwest High School in Omaha. Approximately 200 middle school students attended this event.

Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D



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Vision: People working actively and in cooperation to strengthen rural communities.

Mission: Manage, develop and conserve natural and human resources for present and future generations.

Grant Writing Assistance for Fire Departments

Several area Fire Departments received assistance from the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D with grant-writing. The following grant applications were made to the US Department of Homeland Security which provides grants to needy departments.

The Rosalie Volunteer Fire Department received \$20,718 to be used to purchase new bunker gear and air packs. This grant will replace obsolete and outdated bunker gear and air packs, the newest of which was purchased in 1983.

The Bancroft Volunteer Fire Department received \$15,617 also to be used to purchase new bunker gear. This grant will allow the department to buy 12 complete sets of bunker gear and retire the oldest gear being worn, which is between 14 and 17 years old.

The Thurston Volunteer Fire Department also requested and received \$26,094 in funding to purchase air packs and an air compressor to fill the air bottles. This is equipment the department has never been able to afford and will now allow fire fighters to conduct interior attacks.

The Emerson Volunteer Fire Department submitted a request for \$35,466 to be used to purchase new bunker gear, new air packs, and a new air compressor. This grant application was approved by the Department of Homeland Security in November of 2004.

The Walthill Volunteer Fire Department submitted a request for \$40,708 to be used to buy and equip a new fire truck to be used for fighting grass fires. Over the past 3 years, this department has averaged 71 grass fires and 18 structure fires each year. This application was declined by the Department of Homeland Security.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Household Hazardous Waste Collections were held in three Area communities with grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Collections were held in March of 2004 in Homer, Tekamah, and North Bend. There were a total of 227 participants at these three collections representing 270 households and involved help from 62 volunteers. The types and amounts of materials collected include:

Acids and Bases	800 lbs
Used Motor Oil	4,820 lbs
Paint & Solvents	17,020 lbs
Miscellaneous	800 lbs
Pesticides	3,550 lbs
Car Batteries	8,540 lbs
Antifreeze	2,100 lbs

Scrap Computer Collections

Scrap Computer collections held throughout the RC&D Area have been very productive. The first collection was held on Friday October 17, 2003 at the Dakota-Thurston County Fairgrounds near Dakota City. Twenty-five vehicles brought in over 40 monitors and over 3,000 lbs of peripherals. The second collection was held on Friday August 20 at the Cuming County Fairgrounds in West Point. Ten volunteers helped unload 44 vehicles which brought in 162

monitors and 4,173 lbs of peripherals. The front glass from each monitor will be removed and sent to Corning Glass in Pennsylvania where it will be melted down and made into more computer screens. The plastic and components are also melted down and recycled. The hard drives are destroyed. In total, more than 6.1 tons of computers were diverted from the waste stream by these two collections.

Tires... Tires... Tires...

The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D held a scrap tire collection on June 15 at two locations – one in Oakland and a satellite collection in Arlington. It was literally, an overwhelming success. The RC&D had a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality which would pay for 76 tons of tires. The collection ended up with a total of 139.39 tons or about \$9,000 more than the

RC&D had money for. You might ask, "How could we let it get that big?" The answer is, "It's kind of like guessing how many marbles are in a jar." We learned a lot from this collection. We also learned that there are a lot more tires waiting to be recycled. Nineteen volunteers helped unload 167 vehicles which dropped off tires.

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial

The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial was observed in 2004. One of the sites recognized along the route was the Omaha Indian village of Tonwantonga or "Big Village". The Corps of Discovery camped for a week at what became known as "Fish Camp". Fish Camp was only a few miles from Tonwantonga. Today, a State Historical Marker located two miles north of Homer on US Hwy 77/75 makes reference to both sites. The Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway and the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D are doing some interesting things at this

site. The RC&D has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the National Park Service to construct a replica of an Omaha Earth Lodge here. The Village of Homer was awarded a \$1,030 grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation to landscape the area, and the South Sioux City Visitors' and Convention Bureau and the Papio-Missouri River NRD are each contributing additional funds for the project. The RC&D is currently working with another \$10,000 from the National Park Service to add interpretive signage also at this site.

Cuming County Memorial Garden

The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D assisted the Cuming County Fair Foundation with grant writing assistance. A grant was awarded from the Nebraska State Arboretum to pay for the plantings, mulch and a drip irrigation system for the new W. Jim Ortmeier Memorial Garden.

The memorial garden was unveiled at the opening ceremonies of the Cuming County Fair on August 12, 2004. The garden and a colored stone monument honored the man credited with starting the Cuming County Fair Foundation and spearheading the fund drive for the street paving and sidewalk access to all of the fair buildings.

The memorial garden, located in front of the 4-H building includes a paved walkway, a memorial

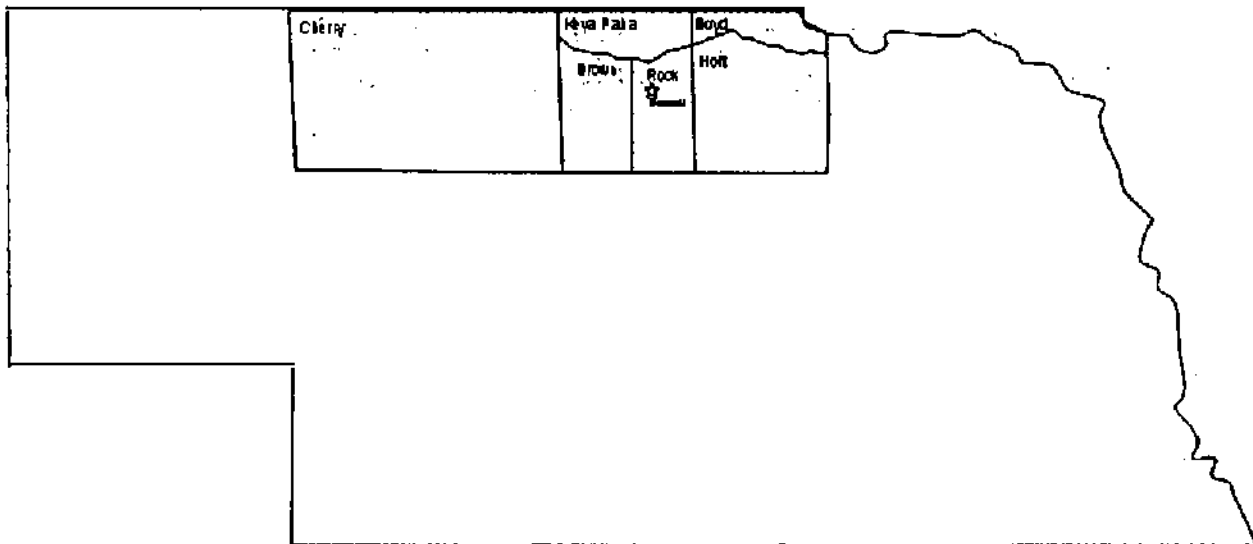
plaque, benches and a variety of plants. Behind the area are three flag poles, one for the United States flag, one for the state flag and one for the 4-H flag.

The garden includes about 30 varieties of plants which are native to Nebraska but that haven't had much exposure to this part of the state. The plants are drought tolerant and low maintenance.

The memorial garden's paved walkway is dotted with red bricks that are engraved with the names of those who donated \$1,000 to the Cuming County Fair Foundation. Several more of the red bricks are located in front of various buildings on the fairgrounds.

North Central Nebraska RC&D

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www.nebraskaoutback.com/rcd



Vision: Enhance the economic viability of the area through the sustainable use of the area's natural resources including the human resource.

Mission: To work closely with local, state and national resource providers in bringing responsive and consistent assistance to the people of north central Nebraska.

FISCAL YEAR '04' COMPLETED PROJECTS

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Sandhills Task Force	500	1,200,000	1,200,500
Outback Regional Group	1,500	3,000	4,500
Leafy Spurge Bio-Control	500	100,000	100,500
Purple Loosestrife Bio-Control	500	10,000	10,500
Outback Initiative	13,800	629,200	643,000
NVWP Admin. Assistance	2,000	5,000	7,000
Gen. NA Trade Corridor	2,000	10,000	12,000
Come Back to the Outback Camp.	1,000	30,000	31,000
HBGC - Community Bldrs.	1,000	5,000	6,000
NVWP RGE Grant	13,000	37,000	50,000
NVWP Specialty Crop Grant	3,000	13,000	16,000
Long Pine Newspaper	500	3,000	3,500
Bassett/RCCF	800	3,000	3,800
Bassett Main Street Program	500	5,000	5,500
2002 Sr. RC&D Assoc. Mtg.	300	1,500	1,800
30 th Anniversary	3,000	7,000	10,000
Beef Hotline Update	1,000	1,000	2,000
Byway 12 Support	5,600	0	5,600
Council Purchase of office Automation Equipment	5,000	15,000	20,000
EDA Planning Grant	50,000	450,000	500,000
TOTAL FY 04	\$ 105,500	\$2,527,700	\$2,633,200

FISCAL YEAR '05' ON-GOING PROJECTS

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Sandhills Task Force	500	600,000	\$600,000
Leafy Spurge Bio-Control	500	100,000	100,500
Forestry Marketing Technical Assistance	15,000	67,500	82,500
Niobrara Valley Wood Products, LLC	500	5,000	5,500
Purple Loosestrife Bio-Control	500	10,000	10,500
Outback Regional Group	1,500	10,000	11,500
Meeting Room	10,000	12,000	22,000
NxLevel Scholarship	200	4,800	5,000
Outback Initiative	13,800	79,200	93,000
Middle Niobrara Weed Awareness Group	2,000	98,000	100,000
Long Pine Continuing ED. Center	500	50,000	50,500
Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway	1,000	20,000	21,000
Purple Loosestrife Bio-control	500	15,000	15,500
NE. Leafy Spurge Working Task Force	1,000	5,000	6,000
RC&D Newsletter	2,000	0	2,000
Sandhills Discovery & Visitors Center	500	2,000	2,500
HBGC - Community Builders	1,500	10,000	11,500
Area Weather Stations	200	4,800	5,000
Logger Education/Chain Saw Safety Workshop	200	2,200	2,400
Springview Airport Development	200	11,500	11,700
Value Added Business Incubator	4,000	601,000	605,000
TOTAL FY05	\$ 55,600	\$ 1,708,000	\$ 1,763,600

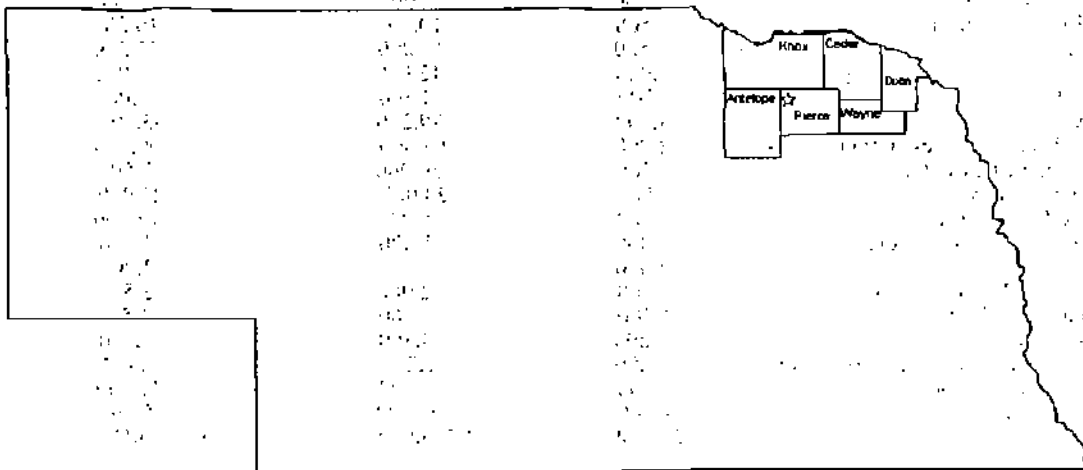
FUTURE PROJECT NEEDS - FY 2006 - 2008

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Forestry Technical Assistance	\$45,000	\$189,000	\$234,000
Niobrara Valley Wood Products, LLC	5,000	95,000	100,000
Outback Regional Group	4,500	30,000	34,500
Sandhills Task Force	0	100,000	100,000
Outback Initiative & CNDED	41,400	150,000	191,400
Co-generation & cedar oil distillery	10,000	4,200,000	4,210,000
Long Pine Continuing ED. Center	15,000	60,000	75,000
Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway	4,500	75,000	79,500
Purple Loosestrife Bi-control	1,500	15,000	16,500
RC&D Newsletter	6,000	0	6,000
Sandhills Discovery & Visitors Center	5,000	100,000	105,000
HBGC - Community Builders	4,500	30,000	34,500
Springview Airport Development	2,000	30,000	32,000
Council Purchase Office Automation Equipment	6,000	0	6,000
e-Commerce Workshops	600	6,000	6,600
Area Weather Stations	600	9,000	9,600
Value Added Business Incubator	100,000	200,000	300,000
TOTAL	\$ 251,600	\$ 5,289,000	\$ 5,540,600

Northeast Nebraska RC&D

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We Make A Difference!



Vision: To facilitate progress in our communities, improve viability and enhance quality of life.

Mission: Provide leadership by seeking technical and financial assistance to create new opportunities in agriculture, employment, area development and protection of the environment.

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Northeast Nebraska RC&D

Area Description

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D serves the six counties of Antelope, Cedar, Dixon, Knox, Pierce and Wayne in the far northeastern corner of the state. Fifty-two communities make up the area of approximately 50,000 people. The Santee Sioux Nation Reservation covers 117,000 acres in northern Knox County. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, now back on their original lands in northern Knox County, is headquartered in Niobrara.

Priorities of Northeast Nebraska RC&D

- Agriculture - Lead agriculturally based economic development.

- Job Opportunities - Create local jobs that provide a living wage.
- Environmental Protection - Promote conservation and improvement of environmental resources.
- Community Development - Turn local ideas into reality.
- Tourism Promotion - Offer the opportunity to experience Northeast Nebraska.

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 11 council meetings
- 5,589 volunteer hours
- 82 partners
- 15 projects completed
- 11 new projects
- 28 on-going projects

2004 Project Highlights

Prairie Exhibit

The Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library was selected to host the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History's *Listening to the Prairie-Farming in Nature's Image* exhibit. Three individuals became the "Prairie Committee" to plan the activities that would help publicize the exhibit and draw attendees to the summer 2004 showing.

The committee was well aware that the Tilden community had been struggling to hold a viable annual event. The Prairie Theme seemed appropriate for the area and lent itself to a number of interesting, fun activities. So, with no community organization or Chamber of Commerce to rely on the committee took the initiative to declare a city wide celebration during the showing of the exhibit.

Three full days of events, over 200 volunteers, countless donations, and more made this July Tilden Prairie Days a tremendous success. More than 900 people from 27 states visited the exhibit

in its six-week showing and over 3,200 people attended the festival. The 2005 committee already has \$4,500 to work with from this year's event. This will truly be an annual event that the community can be proud of.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Tourism
- Tilden Library Foundation
- Local businesses
- US92 Radio Station
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Volunteers
- Northeast NE RC&D

Funding:

RC&D TA \$600
Others \$24,200

Pride of the Plains Marching Band Competition

Securing volunteers as band ambassadors and distributing information about this second annual band festival was the RC&D's role in this project. The day came off very smoothly with more than 800 band students from 14 Nebraska & South Dakota schools participating. An afternoon parade was followed by an evening of outstanding field competition on a beautiful October day.

Partners:

- Pride of the Plains Committee
- Plainview Volunteers
- Northeast NE RC&D

Funding:

RC&D TA \$487
Other \$553

Dairy Study

A group of small dairy producers has run into obstacles when trying to implement on-farm processing as a way of adding value to their products. A dairy forum and an interim study supported by the local state senator have helped in determining that legislative changes are needed. A bill will be drafted for the 2005 Nebraska Unicameral session with hopes that creating a two-tiered system will allow more flexibility for small processors. It will also include criteria for allowing the advertising and delivery of unprocessed milk direct to consumers.

Partners:

- Knox County Extension
- Small Dairy Group
- Center for Rural Affairs
- Knox County Economic Development Agency
- Northeast NE RC&D

Funding:

RC&D TA \$4,125
Other \$16,500

Scrap Tire

What's black, made of rubber, and weighs 153.87 tons? The HUGE scrap tire pile collected by the Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council! Thanks to 15 volunteers working from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 7th, 2004, the task was accomplished. Together they contributed 121 hours.

The volunteers helped people from the six-county region unload car, pickup, tractor, irrigation and miscellaneous other tires. They also sorted out tractor tires that local businesses could make into livestock tanks or mineral feeders. Approximately 190 individuals and businesses were served during this event. Three FFA chapters collected 3,340 pounds of inner tubes which are part of a statewide fund-raiser. All of the tires collected will be totally reused and made into new products.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- Pierce County Supervisors
- Cedar County Commissioners
- Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District
- Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
- Husker Ag LLC
- Northeast NE RC&D

Funding:

RC&D TA \$3,000
Other \$25,570

Food Land & People

Building a Nebraska Sandwich doesn't seem like a proper title for an adult workshop session, but it is just one of the ways that Food, Land & People (FLP) presents information in their teacher's workshops. This hands-on training includes activities called "Buzzy, Buzzy Bee", "Amazing Grazing", "Less Elbowroom" and more. These classroom materials with intriguing titles are available in the 55-lesson resource book that is correlated to the Nebraska state education standards. They focus on agriculture, the environment, conservation and people.

The Food, Land & People program is gaining momentum in Nebraska. To date 20 adults are trained as FLP facilitators. About 75 teachers have had workshop training, and about 450 students and 110-120 adults have been exposed to some of the lessons.

Partners:

- Gardner Foundation
- Keep Nebraska Beautiful
- Knox County Farm Bureau
- Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District
- National Food Land & People
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NE Association of Resource Districts
- NE Soil & Water Conserv. Society
- NE Department of Education
- NE Soybean Board
- Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D
- Northeast Nebraska RC&D
- Poultry & Egg Div., NE Dept. of Ag.
- PrairieLand RC&D
- South Central RC&D
- The Groundwater Foundation

Funding:

RC&D TA \$ 8,400
Others \$28,503

Ashfall Signs

The Knox County Visitors Committee was looking for a legal entity to own two Knox County signs near Ashfall. The old signs were in need of repair. The Northeast Nebraska RC&D was contacted for assistance and handling of lease negotiations and finances. Knox County committed \$1700 lodging tax money for this project. A local attorney drew up the 10-

year lease agreements, and bids went out to area design/sign makers. Designs N' Signs of Albion completed and installed the signs.

Partners: Knox County, Northeast Neb. RC&D

Funding: RC&D TA \$3,250; Other - \$1,700

Brazile Creek Volunteer Stream Monitoring Group

A new group interested in the health of the Brazile Creek started a Volunteer Stream Monitoring Group. On Monday, May 17th seven volunteers, an NRCS employee and the RC&D Coordinator met in Center, Neb., to begin their training. Barb Hayford, Professor at Wayne State College and an RC&D Board Member led the session.

The volunteers began their assessment by taking note of the weather and location and gathered samples. What they found in the stream were blood worms, stoneflies, mayflies, damselflies, net-spinners, caddisflies, beetles, midges, black flies, lunged snails, clams, and minnows.

After some lab work more specifics will be known, but right now this small section of the stream looks very good. The large variety of macroinvertebrates, the stable condition of the banks, existing aquatic plants, and few local watershed impacts all point to a healthy stream.

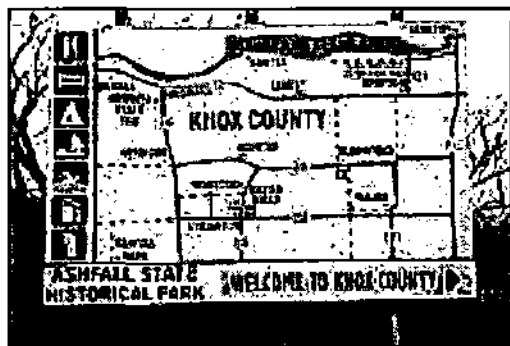
Partners:

- Wayne State College
- Northeast NE RC&D
- Local citizens

Funding:

RC&D TA \$600
Other \$1,775

2004 Project Photos



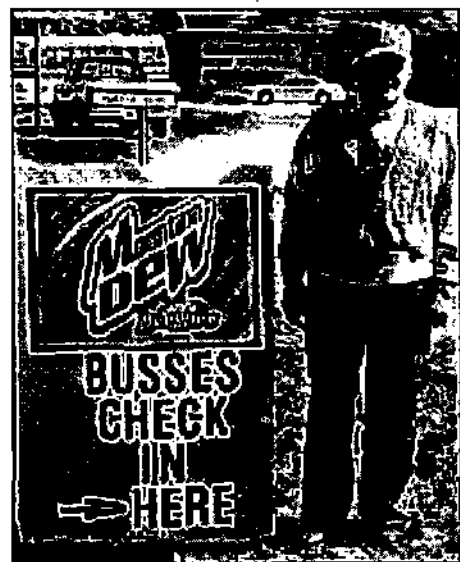
Ashfall Signs

One of two new signs promoting towns in Knox County.



Dairy Study

Sally Fallon with the Weston A. Price Foundation, explains to Senator Doug Cunningham the values of unprocessed milk after the legislative hearing.



Pride of the Plains

Volunteers greeted the bus loads of students as they arrived to participate in the marching band competition.



Food Land & People

Making a "Nebraska sandwich" gives educators a feel for all of the products grown in the state.



Scrap Tire

Pierce County resident stopped and posed for the camera with his pickup load of old tires.



Stream Monitoring

Barb Hayford and Curt Keck gather more samples from Bazile Creek.

Fiscal Year 2004 Completed Projects

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D TA</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Byway 12 Support	16,500	43,378	59,878
Artists 2003	3,000	1,525	4,525
Husker Ag	1,500	3,450	4,950
Lewis & Clark Autumn Outing 2004	4,500	3,040	7,540
Local Products	750	280	1,030
Missouri River Awareness Campaign 2000	375	1,656	2,031
Nebraska Rural Initiative	4,125	4,420	8,545
Prairie Exhibit	600	24,200	24,800
Project HOPE	1,125	20,045	21,170
Roving Computer Lab 2000-01	10,000	16,382	26,382
Shannon Trail 2003	3,600	11,785	15,385
St. James Marketplace	1,800	44,700	46,500
Summer Weed Tour 2004	300	2,250	2,550
USDA for Lockers	2,475	6,900	9,375
Wayne Brochure Rack	1,125	300	1,425
Totals	51,775	184,311	236,086

Ongoing Projects

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D TA</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Artists 2004	1,800	1,000	2,800
Ashfall Signs	2,250	2,700	4,950
Bioenergy Crop Trial	1,000	8,500	9,500
Career Planning & Retention Program	1,000	25,000	26,000
Corps of Discovery Welcome Center	3,000	68,000	71,000
Council Brochure	2,000	2,500	4,500
Dairy Study	4,125	16,500	20,625
Drug Awareness	1,500	3,500	5,000
East Branch Verdigre Creek WMP	3,000	188,000	191,000
Enterprise Facilitation	2,000	53,000	55,000
First Encounter	1,000	50,000	51,000
Food, Land & People	8,400	28,503	36,903
Heartland Experience	3,500	35,000	38,500
Klown Doll Museum	3,000	50,500	53,500
Lewis & Clark Community Presentations	500	3,000	3,500
Lewis & Clark Initial Watershed Assessment	2,000	375,000	377,000
Lewis & Clark: What Was Their Value Worth	1,500	600	2,100
Medicine Wheel Brochure	3,500	10,000	13,500
Missouri River Coalition	2,500	40,000	42,500
Nebraska Highway 14 Tourism Promotion	4,900	35,000	39,900
Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway	2,500	10,000	12,500
Outlaws Along the Trail—Legends & Lore	2,900	7,500	10,400
Pride of the Plains	450	590	1,040
Santee Parks	1,500	2,000	3,500
Scrap Tire Collection 2004	3,000	25,570	28,570
Shannon Trail 2004	3,600	81,500	85,100
Storefront Feasibility Study	3,000	50,000	53,000
Stream Monitoring	1,600	1,775	2,375
Weed Management Area—Northeast Nebraska	2,500	62,700	65,200
Totals	72,525	1,237,938	1,310,463

Fiscal Year 2005-2007 Future Projects

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D TA</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Agri-tourism NE/SD	2,000	43,000	45,000
Alternative Forestry Products Coop	3,000	50,000	53,000
Area Plan 2006-2011	4,500	8,000	12,500
Artisans	3,000	75,000	78,000
Biomass Pilot Plant	5,000	350,000	355,000
Buy Local/Shop at Home	2,000	5,000	7,000
Corps of Discovery Welcome Center	2,000	100,000	102,000
Council Brochure	1,000	2,500	3,500
Drug Awareness Training	1,500	4,000	5,500
Elderhostel	4,500	15,000	19,500
Enjoying the Outdoors with Kids	3,000	16,000	19,000
Focus on Pheasants	2,000	25,000	27,000
Grant Writing Workshop	2,500	6,000	8,500
Habitat for Humanity	1,500	2,500	4,000
Historical Restoration—Plainview	1,500	45,000	46,500
Hospitality Training	2,000	5,000	7,000
Joint Byway Tapes	2,500	50,000	52,500
L&C Tourism Initiatives	6,000	45,000	51,000
MKM Screen Planting	2,000	6,000	8,000
National Recreational River	3,000	35,000	38,000
RC&D Council Endowment	2,000	35,000	37,000
Roving Computer Lab into the Future	5,000	68,900	73,900
Santee Sioux Tourism Initiative	3,000	50,000	53,000
Shannon Trail 05	4,000	136,000	140,000
Zoo Nebraska	3,500	75,000	78,500
Totals	72,000	1,567,900	1,639,900

Northeast Nebraska RC&D

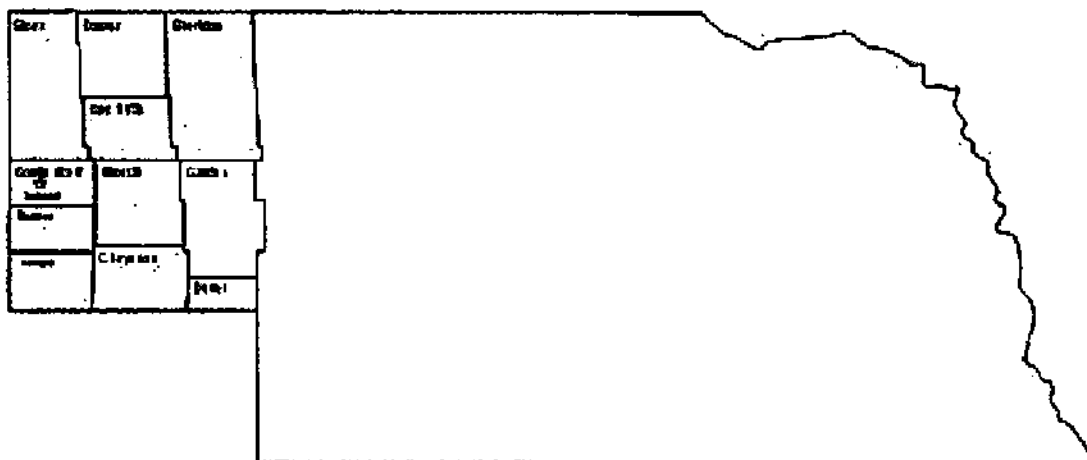
Panhandle RC&D



Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

Empowering Citizens to Build Strong Communities

1517 Broadway, Suite 101
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361-3184
 Phone: (308) 632-1311/1312
 FAX: (308) 632-7671



Mission: Regional betterment for the eleven Panhandle counties in Nebraska through mutual cooperation and participation of private and public interests.

Vision: A well adjusted and developed Panhandle community incorporating social and natural resources, agriculture, industry, tourism, recreation and commercial enterprises to promote an economy that will enhance the quality of life for all families and individuals.

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Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

Empowering Citizens to Build Strong Communities

Panhandle RC&D

Area Description

The Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. is supported by 11 counties with a combined geographic area of approximately 14,000 square miles. The 2000 census shows the region's total population at 90,410. The RC&D is a voluntary organization of members of local governments and private sector representatives who have come together to find ways to solve common local problems and develop common opportunities. The total cost of completed jobs for fiscal year 2004 has been \$2,900,620. For every RC&D dollar (\$1) spent toward assisting a project, over \$12,000 were attracted to complete fiscal year 2004 RC&D Council projects.

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 20 Council members
- 11 Monthly council meetings
- 12 Project/Committee meetings
- 5 Newly Adopted Projects
- 10 Projects Completed
- 20 On-going Projects
- 43 Partners that include Federal (6), State(6), Regional(3), Local(16), and Media(4)

- 300 Council Member hours contributed
- 5,216 Volunteer hours

Priorities of Panhandle RC&D

- Assist member organizations in addressing land utilization efforts to manage for soil health and erosion control.
- Work to insure that the quality and quantity of water resources are protected.
- Assist counties, cities and NRDs address flooding issues in the Panhandle.
- Assist communities in the Panhandle in meeting EPA Guidelines for Safe Drinking Water.
- Strengthen and solidify the regional economy by supporting local industries to improve quality of life and provide employment opportunities.
- Develop a process for Panhandle RC&D to assist in addressing small community needs.
- Assist local communities in developing a community forestry and beautification program.
- Assist in the Development of the Tourism industry in Western Nebraska.
- Assist local conservation groups in maintaining the natural resource base

2004 Project Highlights

Wetland Restoration Projects

The Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. has been working with Ducks Unlimited and the Playa Lakes Foundation with many partners in developing and restoring wetland and upland game habitat in the Panhandle of Nebraska.

Project Timeline: Annually

Project Cost: \$129,220

Funding Sources/Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Playa Lakes, Nebraska Game & Parks, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Panhandle RC&D, and landowners.

Accomplishments and results: Seven wetland projects resulting in 350 acres of wetland habitat restored or developed throughout the panhandle.

Panhandle RC&D

Fort Robinson Annual Intertribal Gathering

This project is an annual event to celebrate cultural awareness held at Fort Robinson State Park in northwestern Nebraska the second weekend in June. It is held to celebrate and display traditional Native American music, dance, crafts, and other traditions. Twenty (20) Tribes were represented this year by 49 dancers and drums. They were from the Santee, Arikara, Black feet, Oglala Sioux, Chippewa, Rosebud Sioux, Pawnee, Crow, Cheyenne, Lakota Sioux, Dakota, Navajo, Shoshone/ Arapaho, Dine, Tiwa, Assiniboin, Iroquois, Hidatsa, and Omaha.

A 5-K Run/Walk and 1/2-K Fun Run was held on Saturday of the Gathering. Over 50 runners and walkers from Nebraska, Colorado, South Dakota, Montana, and Missouri traversed the scenic course that follows the White River Trail, a rail-to-trails project at Fort Robinson. The Run is meant to remind participants how important health, ability, and perseverance are to themselves and their communities.

There were 2,500 participants and visitors present for the weekend of festivities.

Project Goals:

Assist in the development of the tourism industry in western Nebraska.

Objective: Maximize tourism in the region by assisting four local tourism groups.

Project Timeline: Annual Intertribal Gathering with a 5-K run held on the second weekend in June.

Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy

Sixty-five Volunteers assisted with over 4,500 hours to help kids improve their strength and attention span. Riding is proven effective as recreational therapy in the treatment of those with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Mental Retardation, Down Syndrome, Amputees, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Learning Disabilities, Spina Bifida, Deafness, Blindness, Developmental Delay, Emotionally Disturbed, and Paraplegics. Services are tailored to each child's specific need.

Project Cost:

Cash	\$18,980.58
In-Kind	\$42,195.90
Total	\$61,176.48

Partners/Funding Sources:

Nebraska Arts Council, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, Wal-Mart Foundation, Oregon Trail Museum Association, Western Nebraska Tourism Coalition, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dawes County Visitors Center, Lakota Lutheran Church, Chadron Native American Center, Scotts Bluff Native American Youth, Knudson and Associates, Grass Dancer Lawn Service, Top Gun Construction, Eisenbarth Motor Company, Miskimins Motor Companies, Culligan, and Life Tracks.

In-kind assistance throughout the year and at the Gathering were: the National Park Service, Chadron State College's White Buffalo Club, Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, Fort Robinson State Park, US Forest Service, Pine Ridge Job Corps, Lakota Lutheran Church, and the Panhandle RC&D, Inc.

Accomplishments and results: 1) Increase in volunteer assistance from Native Americans in the Panhandle; 2) Creates a positive cultural awareness in Crawford, Chadron, and the surrounding communities; 3) A family atmosphere of learning for our Native American Youth designed to create opportunities for self-sufficiency, self-esteem and pride in their heritage; 4) Over \$150,000 of new money to the area tourism industry was brought in.

Funding Sources/Partners: Regional West Medical Center, Shriners, CA Story Foundation, Panhandle RC&D Inc., Wal-Mart/ Sam's Club Foundation, Community donations and local Volunteers.

Accomplishments and results: The Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy assisted 120 disabled children in providing therapeutic riding this year

Bridges to Buttes Scenic Byway

The Scenic Byway Committee is working towards the enhancement of the travel industry along Highway 20 from Valentine, Nebraska to Harrison, Nebraska. This year we collaborated with the Pine Ridge Chamber of Commerce in creating a map and sights of the Two State Region of Pine Ridge South Dakota and the Northern Panhandle and Cherry County in Nebraska. Brochures were printed to further identify attractions along Highway 20.

Project Goals: "Assist in the Development of the Tourism Industry in Western Nebraska."

Objective: Maximize tourism in the region by assisting four local tourism groups.

Project Timeline: Annual Project

Project Cost: Cash Outlay: \$3,500 In-kind: \$3,840 Total: \$11,180

Funding Sources/Partners: Dawes County Visitors Bureau, Chadron State College, Sheridan County Visitors Bureau, Sioux County Visitors Bureau, National Park Service Agate Fossil Beds, US Forest Service, Cherry County Visitors Bureau, Pine Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Department of Roads, and National Scenic Byways.

Accomplishments and results:

- 5,000 brochures on the Bridges to Buttes Scenic Byway.
- 5,000 two state brochures with map of the region.
- Annual Work Plan

Stateline Bean Growers Coop

This is a First Responder with the Nebraska Cooperative Development Group. The Bean Growers in Wyoming and Nebraska along the North Platte Valley were looking at forming a Cooperative in 2001. We helped facilitate the initial stages in partnership with the Growers, Nebraska Cooperative Development Group and USDA Rural Development. With the formation of the COOP and USDA assistance from Washington DC, the group moved forward and purchased an existing bean processing plant in Bridgeport, Nebraska. The RC&D assisted with the grant application in 2002 for a value added grant. In the Fall of 2003 the grant was resubmitted and approved for \$500,000. This is a multimillion dollar industry today.

Project Goals: Strengthen and solidify the regional economy by supporting local industries to improve quality of life and provide employment opportunities.

Objective: Support the development/creation of at least two value-added industries.

Project Timeline: 2001 formation to 2003 production of dry edible beans

Project Cost: Cash: \$2,700,000 In-Kind: \$50,000 Total: \$2,750,000

Funding Sources/Partners: Bean Growers Coop, USDA-Rural Development, Nebraska Cooperative Development Group, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Panhandle RC&D.

Accomplishments and results: A functional Dry Edible Bean Cooperative set up to market and package dry edible beans.

2004 Project Photos

Friends of the Intertribal Gathering Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford, Neb.



The Grand Entry

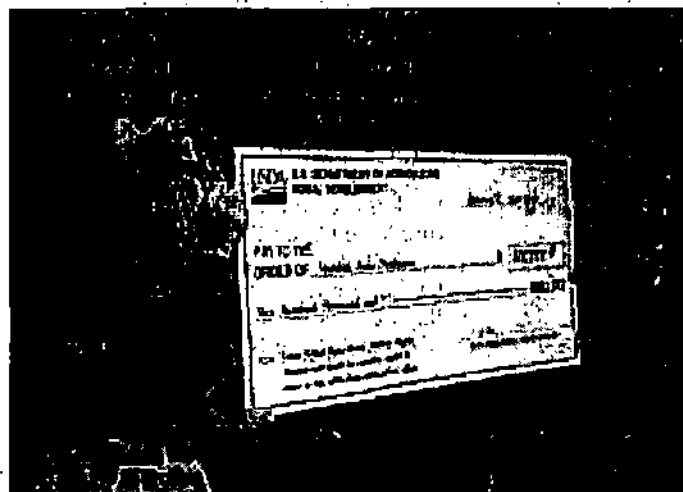


Forty-nine dancers representing 20 tribes participated this year.



Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy

Sixty-five volunteers donated over 4,500 hours to help disabled children improve strength and attention span through recreational riding therapy.



Stateline Bean Producers

Stateline Bean Producers receive a \$500,000 Value Added Grant.



Wetland Restoration Projects

Over 350 acres of wetland habitat has been improved.

FISCAL YEAR '04 COMPLETED PROJECTS

<i>Project #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
31-6001-007-021	Banner Co Alumni Scholarship Fund	1,000	4,900	5,900
31-6001-033-032	Farmers Market - Sidney	0	3,600	3,600
31-6001-999-097a	R Hollstein, Playa Lakes Wetland	0	10,500	10,500
31-6001-999-087	Stateline Bean Growers Coop	1,400	2,750,000	2,751,400
31-6001-999-083p	Wetland Restoration Chichester	0	44,685	44,685
31-6001-999-083q	Wetland Restoration Marquardt	0	14,885	14,885
31-6001-999-083s	Wetland Restoration Mather	0	21,360	21,360
31-6001-999-083t	Wetland Restoration Monson	0	26,255	26,255
31-6001-999-083n	Wetland Restoration Russell	0	12,035	12,035
31-6001-999-083u	Wetland Restoration Scotts Bluff	0	10,000	10,000
TOTAL		\$2,400	\$2,898,220	\$2,900,620

FISCAL YEAR '04 ON-GOING PROJECTS

<i>Project #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
31-6001-999-074L	ArcView Training 2004	1,000	3,750	4,750
31-6001-007-020	Banner County Historical Society	1,000	10,000	11,000
31-6001-007-022	Banner County Wind Energy	1,000	500,000	501,000
31-6001-999-090c	Bridges to Buttes Scenic Byway	2,000	4,000	6,000
31-6001-157-095	Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Acad	500	25,000	25,500
31-6001-999-074	Valley Tree Coalition	5,000	34,000	39,000
31-6001-999-074m	Mitchell Comm Forestry Assess	1,800	5,000	6,800
31-6001-999-074o	Oshkosh Comm Forestry Assess	1,800	2,332	4,132
31-6001-999-074p	Scottsbluff Comm Forestry Assess	1,200	2,332	3,532
31-6001-999-074q	Terrytown Comm Forestry Assess	1,200	2,332	3,532
31-6001-999-079	Comm Forestry Carbon Sequestrati	2,000	25,000	27,000
31-6001-999-084	Farm And Ranch Museum	1,000	500,000	501,000
31-6001-157-096	Gering Up - Youth Sports	1,000	1,000	2,000
31-6001-999-090	Highway 20 Scenic Byway Project	1,000	4,000	5,000
31-6001-999-083b	Wetland Restoration Brown	500	15,000	15,500
31-6001-123-042	Nine Mile Creek Restoration	1,000	80,000	81,000
31-6001-999-059	North Platte Valley Water Coalition	8,000	220,000	228,000
31-6001-999-073	Panhandle Landmarks, Inc.	500	5,000	5,500
31-6001-999-097	Playa Lakes Joint Venture	1,000	20,000	21,000
31-6001-999-094	Sense of Place/North Platte Valley	1,000	7,000	8,000
TOTAL		\$33,500	\$1,465,746	\$1,499,246

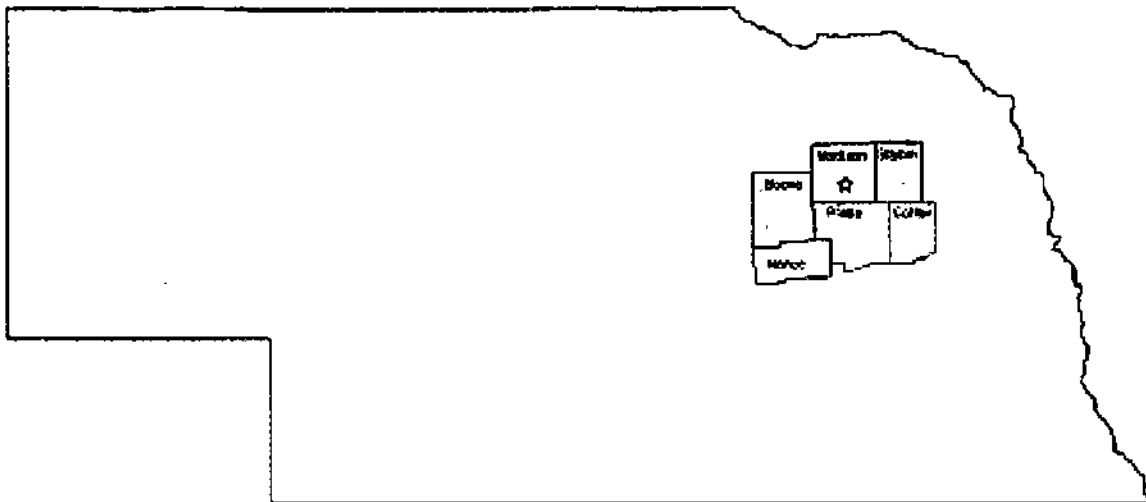
FUTURE PROJECT NEEDS - FY 2005 - 2007

<i>Project #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
31-6001-157-095	Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Acad	2,000	400,000	402,000
31-6001-013-078	Conservatory Building	1,000	250,000	251,000
31-6001-157-096	Gering Up - Youth Sports	1,000	500,000	501,000
31-6001-999-090	Highway 20 Scenic Byway Project	1,000	80,000	81,000
31-6001-123-042	Nine Mile Creek Restoration	2,000	500,000	502,000
31-6001-999-094	Sense of Place/North Platte Valley	1,000	100,000	101,000
31-6001-013-076	Snake Creek Tributary Restoration	50,000	250,000	300,000
31-6001-013-077	3rd St Landscaping/Beautification	500	5,000	5,500
TOTAL		\$58,500	\$2,085,000	\$2,143,500

PrairieLand RC&D



104 East 6th Street North
P.O. Box 350
Madison, NE 68748
Phone: (402) 454-2026
FAX: (402) 454-2029



Mission: To create a network for all citizens by providing awareness, education, leadership development and other initiatives to enhance the economy, the environment, natural resources and the quality of life with a vision for the future.

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Cities & Villages:

Village of Cedar Rapids
Village of Howells
City of Clarkson
City of St. Edward
Village of Duncan
Village of Petersburg
City of Newman Grove
City of Fullerton
City of Albion
City of Madison

Village of Leigh
Village of Platte Center
City of Schuyler

Counties:

Colfax County
Boone County
Madison County
Nance County
Stanton County

Natural Resource Districts:

Lower Platte North NRD
Lower Loup NRD
Lower Elkhorn NRD

Colleges, Chambers, Clubs and Other

Entities:

Broken Arrow Wilderness
Petersburg Industrial Development Corporation
First Nebraska Bank of Stanton
The Bank of Madison
Madison County CVB
Platte County Cooperative Extension
Central Community College/Platte Campus
Cornhusker Public Power District
Northeast Community College
Northeast Economic Development District
Colfax County Extension/Andy Christensen
Petersburg Community Club
Columbus Chamber/Platte Co. CVB
Albion Chamber of Commerce
Genuine Rural Partners
COIN - Marion Hamling

Individuals:

Theodore Thieman, Petersburg
Kimberly Ramsey/Village of Pilger
Philip and Sandra Swantek, Genoa
Dennis Hillen, Leigh
Shirley Petsche, Petersburg

Area Description

PrairieLand RC&D received USDA authorization in January 2002. In January of 2003 the PrairieLand RC&D Council established a permanent office in Madison. The PrairieLand RC&D Council serves the six east-central Nebraska counties of Boone, Nance, Madison, Platte, Stanton and Colfax. PrairieLand RC&D encompasses 2,062,080 acres and has 92,723 inhabitants. The thirty-four communities and villages have a median population of 500 residents, but Norfolk and Columbus have about 20,000 inhabitants each.

The major economic strength of the area revolves around agricultural production and the industries that support agriculture. While farm population comprises about 44 percent of the total population in the PrairieLand area, average farm size continues to grow while the number of people living on farms continues to decline. PrairieLand also has a rapidly growing Hispanic population finding employment at many of the agricultural industries.

All but a few acres in the Shell Creek Watershed are included in the six county RC&D area. A variety of improvements are needed to improve water quality and reduce erosion and flooding. The RC&D area also shares two major highway corridors that could potentially provide an economic boost and expanded tourism in the area.

2004 Project Highlights

Pilger Rest Area Project

The Pilger Rest Area located along US Highway 275 was threatened in 2003 when Nebraska Roads officials planned to close the area in a cost-cutting measure blaming maintenance costs, low usage and future highway expansion. Area citizens strongly disagreed, and they gathered a grassroots organization that lead to town hall meetings and an active letter writing campaign. At a ceremony in February 2004 the "keys to the

Priorities of PrairieLand RC&D

- Enhance rural/urban economy in the six - county area.
- Provide a healthy environment through improved conservation of our natural resources.
- Create communities that are strengthened through improved awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity.
- Increase tourism promotion and recreational development.
- Improve community's infrastructure and expand citizen services.
- Provide opportunities for leadership development

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 12 Council Meetings
- 7 Committee Meetings
- 14 Completed Projects
- 42 Dues Paid Memberships, increased from 30 in 2003
- 97 Volunteers
- 4,187 Volunteer Hours
- Successful Annual Banquet
- Completed RC&D Survey for Area Plan.
- Created two part time positions, Shell Creek Project Coordinator and Resource Inventory Surveyor funded by Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund.
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and NRCS created and funded a full time position to work solely with the Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Project.

rest area" were officially handed over from the State Department of Roads to the Stanton County Commissioners for the cost of one dollar. Improvement Plans for the 10.7 acre Pilger Rest Area were adopted July 8. The area is to include camping, picnicking, rest rooms, showers, laundry, truck parking, playground and games, observation tower, and pavilion with kitchen for public gatherings.

Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group

Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group (SCWIG) seeks to address flooding, erosion, and water quality issues along the 300,000 acres in the Shell Creek Watershed. SCWIG has formed a locally led Board of Directors and is promoting soil conservation practices to help solve these issues. The group has acquired funding from two grants to survey, educate, and pay incentives to land owners and operators in a 30,000 acre targeted area. This involves about 10 percent of the entire watershed and is the beginning phase of a large and aggressive project.

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund have committed \$555,000 for the next 2-3 years to support this project. UNL-Extension has sub-contracted to educate and PrairieLand RC&D will administer the funds.

Two part time positions funded by the grants were created, Shell Creek Watershed Project Coordinator, and Resource Inventory Surveyor. NRCS and NDEQ have created and funded a full time position to be housed at the Columbus

NRCS Field Office to work solely on Shell Creek watershed.

Newman Grove High School Science program has set up a base line monitoring system testing the water quality of the upper end of the watershed. With an increased number of students in the program and improved equipment funded by NDEQ grants, they now have five test sites. In December, 2004, they will give their 3rd Annual Power Point Presentation on the Quality of Water in the Shell Creek. A newsletter was sent to the entire watershed (nearly 1,700) inviting them to this presentation and informing them of the SCWIG project and goals, conservation practices, etc.

PrairieLand RC&D will continue to assist the SCWIG with search for technical information, funding, administration, and watershed planning guidance along with our partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Lower Platte North NRD, Pheasants Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks, UNL-Extension, NDEQ, NETF, and Newman Grove High School FFA & Science programs.

Highway 14 Association Project

The PrairieLand RC&D Council is working with three adjoining RC&D's to assist with the development and implementation of the tourism promotion strategies of the Highway 14 Association. The main goal is to increase tourist traffic on Nebraska Highway 14. PrairieLand RC&D now does the meeting contact mailings for the group.

The Highway 14 Association has continued to receive tourism grant funding to distribute and promote their brochure. They have established a website and have completed a very successful POP IN (Products On Parade In Nebraska) weekend. Eighteen months of preparation have resulted in the event of the year for Nebraska artists and crafters. Twelve communities each hosted a POP IN site for the shopping extravaganza on October 16-17. Some people traveled

to a northern or southern point along the highway to spend the night and get an early start in the morning. The event also attracted some out of state shoppers. The participating communities include: Superior, Nelson, Clay Center, Aurora, Central City, Fullerton, Albion, Petersburg, Elgin, Neligh, Verdigris, and Niobrara.

The goal of the POP IN promotion was to bring visitors from other parts of the state to the area to boost economic development and expose hidden talents in all towns along Highway 14. The next event is planned for April 23-24, 2005.

For their efforts, the Highway 14 Association has won the "Outstanding Regional Association" award from the Nebraska Department of Tourism. These dedicated volunteers have worked diligently to "put Highway 14 on the Map", and that's just what they've done.

Madison, Columbus, and Fullerton Used Tire Collection

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) awarded grant funding to the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District and the Lower Loup Natural Resources District to complete used tire collections in Madison, Columbus, and Fullerton: 14.25 tons of tires were recycled in Madison, 138 tons in Columbus, and 35 tons in Fullerton. The collection was conducted by the PrairieLand Resource

Conservation & Development Council with assistance from the Lower Elkhorn NRD, Lower Loup NRD, Keep Norfolk Beautiful, Keep Columbus Beautiful, many volunteers, and the communities of Madison, Columbus, and Fullerton. The tires were hauled back to Concordia, KS where they will be recycled into lawn furniture, picnic tables and other uses by Champlin Tire Recycling.

FISCAL YEAR 2004 COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project #	Name	RC&D TA	Other	Total Cost
01010	Highway 14 Tourism Promotion Project	\$8,640.00	\$15,000.00	\$23,640.00
02012	Used Oil Collection & Recycling	\$200.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,200.00
02015	Bible Baptist School Playground	\$150.00	\$57,850.00	\$58,000.00
02017	Integration Task Force Project	\$750.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,750.00
03018	Stanton School Playground Equipment Project	\$90.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,090.00
03025	Newman Grove Drainage Project	\$120.00	\$15,737.00	\$15,857.00
04026	Hispanic Youth Development Program	\$120.00	\$380.00	\$500.00
04027	Madison Used Tire Collection 2004	\$672.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,672.00
04028	Columbus Used Tire Collection 2004	\$1,424.00	\$21,573.00	\$22,997.00
04029	Pesticide Container Recycling Project 2004	\$60.00	\$2,940.00	\$3,000.00
04030	Broken Arrow Wilderness Development Project Phase 2	\$720.00	\$349,280.00	\$350,000.00
04033	2004 NE SWCS Annual Meeting	0	\$3,650.00	\$3,650.00
04040	Tilden Prairie Days 2004	\$200.00	0	\$200.00
04041	CYFAR Madison Family Information Night	\$90.00	\$2,310.00	\$2,400.00
TOTALS		\$13,236.00	\$518,720.00	\$531,956.00

FY 2005 ONGOING PROJECT NEEDS

Project #	Name	RC&D TA	Other	Total Cost
02018	Boone County Ag Society Bldg. Project	\$400.00	\$9,200.00	\$9,600.00
03023	Hispanic Latino Outreach Project	\$500.00	\$7,500.00	\$8,000.00
05046	Used Tire Collection and Recycling 2005	\$750.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,750.00
04032	Shell Creek Watershed Phase 3	\$9,000.00	\$38,500.00	\$394,000.00
00005	Cedar River Bank Stabilization Project	\$4,500.00	\$120,000.00	\$124,500.00
05044	Used Oil Collection/Recycle Project 2	\$240.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,240.00
05047	Highway 14 Tourism Promotion Project Phase 3	\$2,200.00	\$24,000.00	\$26,200.00
04031	2005 State Association Annual Meeting	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$14,000.00
04034	Area Plan Update	\$500.00	0	\$500.00
04035	Food Land People	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
04036	COIN Project	\$600.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,100.00
04037	Broken Arrow Weekend	\$750.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,750.00
04038	Pilger Rest Area	\$850.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,850.00
04039	Drug Awareness Task Force	\$1,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00
05045	Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling 2005	\$500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
TOTALS		\$26,790.00	\$809,500.00	\$836,290.00

2004 Project Photos



Children, Youth, Families At Risk (CYFAR)

Marisol Baquerizo, CYFAR Coordinator, helps Science Camp students complete their projects and posters at the PrairieLand RC&D Meeting Room. As a part of the 4-H science summer program, Extension sponsored a science fair for display at the Madison County Fair.



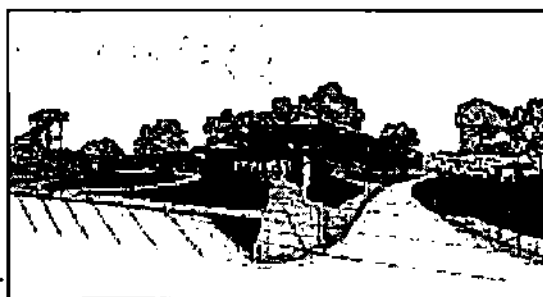
Madison, Columbus and Fullerton Used Tire Collection

Youth and adults from the Fullerton area volunteered to toss tires in an effort to clean up our environment. PrairieLand RC&D also held collections in Columbus and Madison.



Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group

Dan Gillespie with NRCS educates Shell Creek landowners and operators about soil quality during winter of 2004.



Pilger Rest Area

Improvement plans for the Pilger rest area adopted in July includes camping, picnicking, rest rooms, showers, laundry, truck parking, playground and games, observation tower and pavilion with kitchen for public gatherings.



Highway 14 Association Project

Todd Kirschenbaum, Nebraska Department of Tourism presents the 2004 Outstanding Regional Association award to Bud Daniels, Highway Association President, and Pam Maynard, association member and grant writer.



Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group

Newman Grove students test water quality for a third year in the Shell Creek Watershed to identify needs and monitor results from conservation practices implemented.

Sandhills RC&D



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Mullen, NE 69152
(308) 546-0636
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"Making the Sandhills a Better Life"

County	State	Region
Area	Sub-Region	Local
Area	Sub-Region	Local

Vision: Citizens of the area collaborating to create a healthy rural economy along with sustainable communities.

Mission: To create an environment where all citizens of the region work together to revitalize the rural economy, enhance and protect natural resources, improve community infrastructure and improve and increase tourism opportunities.

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Dorothy Davis

Commissioner Representative for
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Sandhills RC&D Partners

Neb. Natural Resources Commission
Upper Loup & Twin Platte NRDs
Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Neb. Dept. of Economic Development
Neb. Rural Development Commission
Neb. Department of Tourism
Neb. Cooperative Extension
All other Nebraska RC&D's
Consolidated Telephone Co.

Nebraska Forest Service
Forest Service
Rural Development
Sandhills Task Force
The Nature Conservancy
Village of Thedford
Village of Mullen
Village of Arthur
Sandhills EDGE Coalition

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Community Development Services, LLC
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sandhills Community Builders
Mullen Commercial Club
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Thedford Service Club
Nebraska State Association of RC&Ds



Sandhills RC&D

Area Description

Nebraska's newest RC&D had its ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Sandhills RC&D building in Mullen on July 6, 2004. The Sandhills RC&D area covers 7,800 square miles in eight counties in west central Nebraska. These counties include: Arthur, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson and Thomas. The 2000 census shows the region's total population at 47,517. Ranching and farming is the largest industry (in terms of economic activity) in the region generating over \$103 million of economic output. Cow/calf operations are the primary economic activity within the ranch and farm economy accounting for 63% of all activity. The second largest activity within the ranch/farm sector is hay production. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad operates one of the world's heaviest coal shipping corridors through the heart of this region.

Priorities of Sandhills RC&D

- Protect and enhance the quality and quantity of all natural resources.
- Revitalize the rural economy with economic development activities.
- Improve infrastructure and community resources.
- Increase and improve tourism and recreational development.

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 238 hours of volunteer time
- 11 Council meetings
- 6 On going projects
- 8 new projects started
- 5 projects completed

2004 Project Highlights

Mullen, Arthur and Thedford Rehabilitation Programs

Housing needs for low income families within the Sandhills RC&D area is a high priority. Sandhills RC&D has successfully assisted the communities of Mullen, Arthur and Thedford to make applications to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and received

\$215,725 for funding to rehabilitate ten homes in 2004. To strengthen the impact on area housing needs, a second application was made to NEDED with a commitment to receive \$150,000 to rehabilitate seven additional homes in 2005.

Non-Profit Income Tax Exemption

The Sandhills RC&D obtained income tax exemption under section 501(c).3 of the Internal Revenue Code. This designation will put the

organization in a positive position to have favorable impacts on the region for years to come.

FFA Range Judging Contest

The Sandhills RC&D assisted NRCS personnel in hosting a range judging contest at Thedford for participating high school FFA Chapters.

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway

The Sandhills RC&D has partnered with Loup Basin and Central Nebraska RC&D's to assist the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway organization with tourism efforts along Nebraska's Highway 2.

Deemed one of the ten most scenic roads in the United States, Nebraska's "Sandhills Journey" takes you through some of the most remote and breathtaking country side you will ever see. This 272-mile byway extends between two of the state's "larger communities", the noteworthy city of Grand Island and the bustling railroad town of Alliance.

After being awarded \$337,000 for a visitor's center along the Byway, with assistance from the Sandhills RC&D, the Byway organization was able to identify a site to build a visitor's center to "interpret" the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway. The community of Broken Bow developed a proposal to host the visitor's center and the Byway Council accepted that proposal. Plans are now underway for construction of a visitor center on Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway in Broken Bow.

Fiscal Year 2004 Completed Projects

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share (\$)</i>	<i>Other (\$)</i>	<i>Total Cost (\$)</i>
Sandhills RC&D Tax Exemption	\$500	\$-0-	\$500
NCIP - Project Networking Guide 2004	\$-0-	\$500	\$500
Range Youth Camp	\$-0-	\$11,183	\$11,183
Total	\$500	\$11,683	\$12,183

On-going Projects

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share (\$)</i>	<i>Other (\$)</i>	<i>Total Cost (\$)</i>
Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway	\$-0-	\$337,000	\$337,000
Sandhills EDGE Coalition	\$-0-	\$12,000	\$12,000
Mullen Hometown Competitiveness	\$-0-	\$1,200	\$1,200
MAT Housing Rehab Grant	\$4,000	\$215,725	\$219,725
Total	\$4,000	\$565,925	\$569,925
Combined Total	\$4,500	\$577,608	\$582,108

2004 Project Photos



New Sandhills RC&D Building

The construction of the Sandhills RC&D building began in Spring 2004.



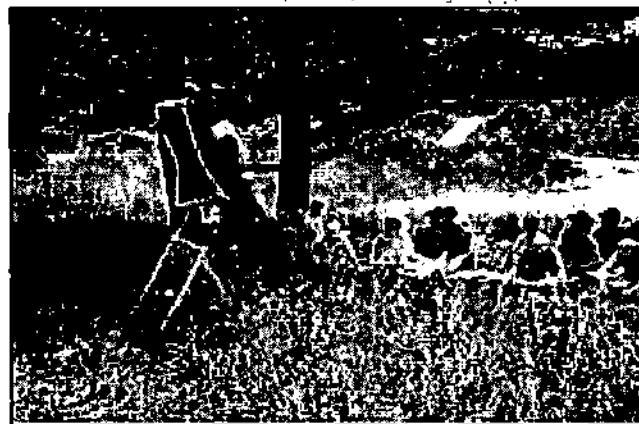
Sandhills RC&D Building

The new building was nearly completed by June 2004.



New Sandhills RC&D Building

The Sandhills RC&D ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 6, 2004 in Mullen, Neb.



Range Youth Camp

Area students learn about rangeland conservation during the outdoor classroom at the Range Youth Camp.



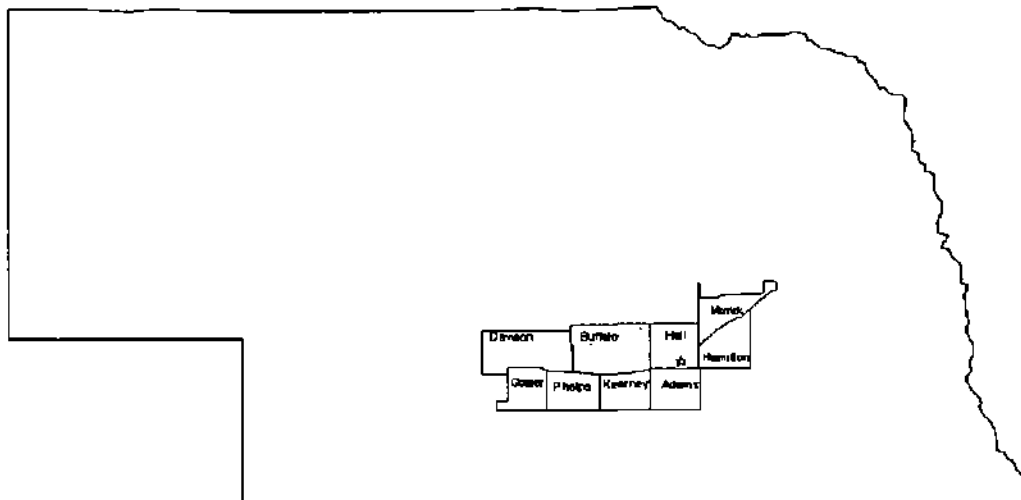
Range Youth Camp

Future range managers learn range monitoring techniques, like using the Robel pole, at the 2004 Range Youth Camp.

South Central Nebraska RC&D



P.O. Box 250
25 Mt Plum Street
Doniphan, NE 68832-0250
Phone: (402) 845--6678
FAX: (402) 845-6529
www.nercd.com



Vision: Progressive, prosperous and dynamic communities and rural areas.

Mission: To promote cooperative partnerships, educate, provide leadership and information, and utilize resources to benefit area residents.

South Central Nebraska RC&D Staff

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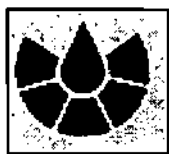
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(308) 647-6617

Dan Ohlman

Central Platte NRD
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(308) 548-2412



South Central Nebraska RC&D

Area Description

The South Central Nebraska-RC&D area consists of nine counties – Adams, Buffalo, Dawson, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick and Phelps – encompassing 5,613 square miles. The major river basin is the central portion of the Platte River. Six of the nine counties are located in the Rainwater Basin, which provides habitat for migratory waterfowl and several threatened and endangered species. Water is extremely important in this area for domestic use, agriculture, and wildlife.

Priorities of South Central Nebraska RC&D

- Improved Economic Conditions in the region,
- Environmental Stewardship and Natural Resource Protection,
- Support for Community Development Activities, and
- Increased Awareness of the RC&D Program.

Summary of 2004 Activities

• Number of volunteers	198
• Volunteer Hours	4,935
• Number of projects completed	7
• Number of new projects	6
• Number of ongoing projects	11
• Number of partners	81

2004 Project Highlights

Youth Entrepreneur Workshop

Twenty participants learned about business opportunities from several young entrepreneurs at the workshop held in Minden. Congressman Tom Osborne also spoke about entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas. The workshop was sponsored by the Minden Chamber of Commerce with assistance from South Central Nebraska RC&D and several local businesses.

Prairie Loft

Agriculture and Outdoor Education Center

The RC&D Council assisted the Prairie Loft Advisory Board to purchase eight acres on the site of the former Hastings Regional Center farm as the future site of the Center. The site includes a large barn and several buildings which will be renovated to be used for Center activities.

Route 6 Nebraska

A new web site, www.route6nebraska.com was launched in 2004 to help promote travel along the 374 miles of Nebraska's "First Highway" – U.S. Highway 6. Partners in this effort included representatives from counties and communities along the Route 6 corridor, visitor bureaus, chambers of commerce, local and regional development corporations and several RC&D Councils. The web site and a new Route 6 brochure were made possible by a tourism marketing grant from the Nebraska Department of Tourism.

Career EXPO

Assisted Central Community College - Hastings and Trailblazer RC&D with planning and implementation of a career day attended by approximately 1,100 students (8th - 12th grade). Students learned about numerous career opportunities during the event held at the College's Hastings Campus.

South Central Economic Development District

RC&D staff and Council members helped organize a 12-county economic development district in 2004. The District incorporated, adopted bylaws, and developed a work plan. A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was completed and submitted to the Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration. Approval of the Strategy by the Economic Development Administration will enable organizations in the District to apply for various federal funds, previously unavailable to the region. Partners in this project included the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, South Platted United Chambers of Commerce, Trailblazer RC&D, several utilities, and local economic development corporations.

Platte Valley Weed Management Area

Ten county weed superintendents, several conservation organizations, state and federal wildlife agencies, chemical companies, and landowners with RC&D assistance formed the weed management area in 2004 to better coordinate efforts to control invasive species in central Nebraska. The group has targeted purple loosestrife, salt cedar and phragmites in the Platte River corridor for inventory, public education, and control efforts.

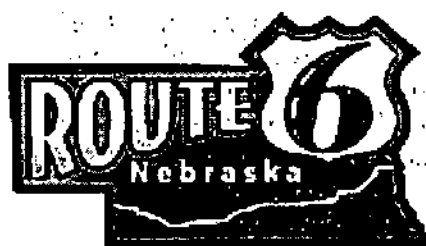
Giltner Area Development Corporation

Community members in and around Giltner came together early in 2004 to incorporate as the Giltner Area Development Corporation. RC&D assistance provided to the group included help with development of a mission statement, bylaws, and application for tax exempt status with IRS. The group has sponsored alumni events, a community-wide clean up day, a community survey and is working to develop additional housing in the community. They are moving forward with the Asset Based Community Development to identify resources and opportunities in the area.

2004 Nebraska Grazing Conference

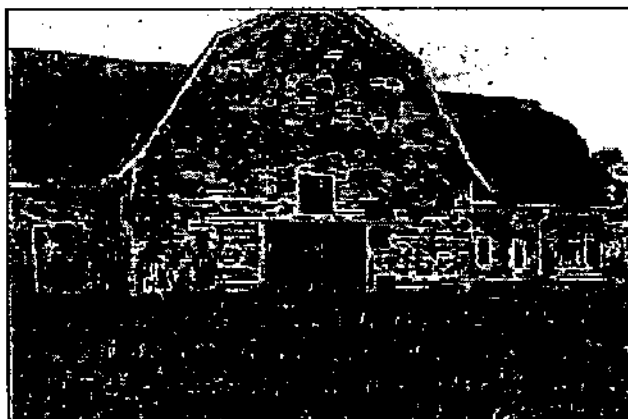
Assisted with planning and local arrangements for the 2004 Nebraska Grazing Conference held in Kearney, NE on August 10-11, 2004. Over 150 participants learned grazing management techniques from agency personnel and ranchers from throughout the country. Partners were University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Cooperative Extension Service, NRCS, and several livestock producers from Nebraska and other states.

2004 Project Photos



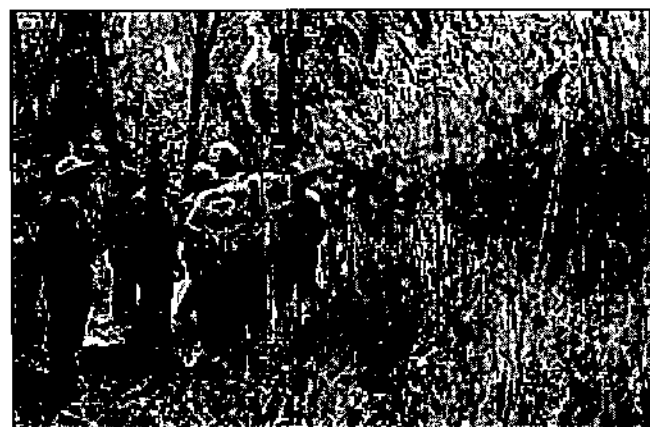
Route 6 Nebraska

The Route 6 web site was launched in 2004 to help promote travel along the 374 miles of Nebraska's "First Highway" - U.S. Highway 6.



Prairie Loft Agriculture and Outdoor Education Center

This old barn and eight surrounding acres will be the future site of the Prairie Loft Center where youth can learn more about agriculture and the environment.



Platte Valley Weed Management Area

During a tour of invasive species on Jeffery Island in July 2004 participants saw how phragmites can quickly invade a site.



Platte Valley Weed Management Area

Several landowners and weed superintendents, conservation organizations and chemical company reps took part in the weed tour.



Youth Entrepreneur Workshop

Area youth listen to a presenter discuss entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas during the workshop held in Minden.

FISCAL YEAR 2004 COMPLETED PROJECTS

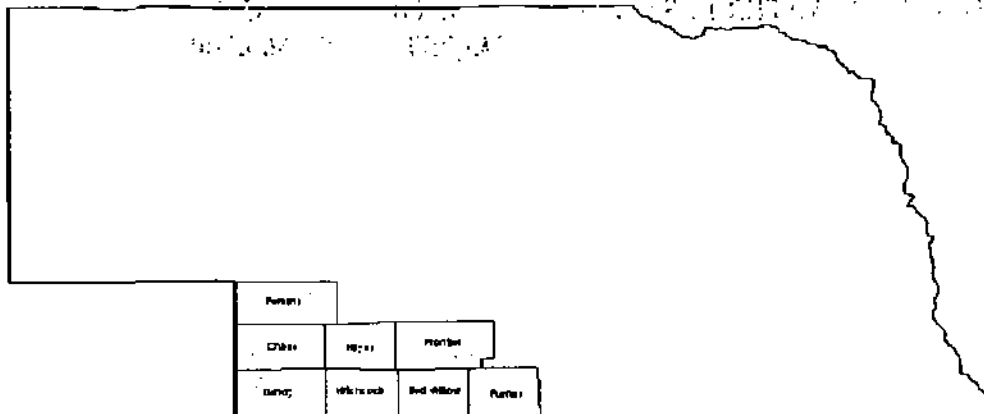
<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
CAREER EXPO 2003	1,520	13,480	15,000
YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOP	525	775	1,300
BUSINESS BEYOND THE FARM	3,000	37,000	40,000
KEARNEY COUNTY ECON DEV CORP	1,875	6,125	8,000
CENTRAL CITY HIKE/BIKE TRAIL	2,625	10,300	12,925
2004 NE GRAZING CONFERENCE	1,875	23,125	25,000
TOTALS	\$11,420	\$90,805	\$102,225

FISCAL YEAR 2005 - 2008 ON-GOING PROJECTS

<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
CENTRAL CITY TRAIL	3,000	225,000	228,000
MINDEN REC BUILDING	2,000	25,000	27,000
PLATTE VALLEY WEED MANAGEMENT AREA	3,500	105,000	108,500
FOOD, LAND & PEOPLE COALITION	2,000	55,000	57,000
ROUTE 6 NEBRASKA PROMOTION	1,300	26,000	27,300
PRAIRIE LOFT CENTER	20,000	1,855,000	1,875,000
S.CENTRAL NE ECON. DEV. DISTRICT	4,500	160,000	164,500
BADER PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN	1,750	17,200	18,950
P.A.C.E. OUTREACH PROJECT	1,100	67,500	68,600
BETHANY HOME NATURE CENTER	1,600	40,000	41,600
2004 CHILDREN'S GR. WATER FESTIVAL	3,000	85,000	88,000
TOTALS	\$43,750	\$2,660,700	\$2,704,450

Southwest Nebraska RC&D

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Phone: (308) 697-3477
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www.swrcd.org



Vision: To be a vibrant, dynamic, progressive region; providing the good life for all residents.

Mission: To develop and coordinate the wise use of natural, economic and human resources to improve the quality of life for all residents in southwest Nebraska.

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Robert Jack
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Diane Hagan
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Tom Monnahan
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Gary Stamm
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Benkelman, NE

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Bartley, NE

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Furnas County Alternate
Cambridge, NE

Joyce Gohl
Hayes County Alternate
Hayes Center, NE

Con Fielding
Red Willow Count Alternate
McCook, NE

Southwest Nebraska RC&D

Area Description

Southwest Nebraska RC&D serves the eight counties of Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow. This area covers 4,184,426 acres. There are 34 incorporated towns and a population of 35,920. Small town survival is vital to the area as 77 percent of the residents live in communities with populations less than 2,000. The RC&D area has experienced a decline in population over the past four decades.

Agriculture is the base of the economy, which fluctuates with markets and growing conditions. About one third of the cropland is irrigated (676,500 acres) with water supplied from wells. Due to continuing drought conditions, surface water irrigation is very limited.

Opportunities to improve the area's natural resources and economic conditions include tourism, sustainable agriculture, regional col-

laboration and the integration of new technology. One of the area's greatest assets is its residents - their work ethic, visions for the future and strong family values provide the basis for the exceptional quality of life in southwest Nebraska.

Priorities of Southwest Nebraska RC&D

- Economic Development
- Water & the Environment
- Promotion-Publicity
- Community Improvement

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 12 Council meetings
- 19 Projects completed
- 20 On-going projects
- 47 Project sponsors
- 91 Partners
- 1,610 Council member hours contributed
- 2,140 Volunteer hours contributed

2004 Project Highlights

Telefuture Technology Conference '04

On January 20-21, McCook Community College hosted approximately 100 students and 100 adults who wanted more information about technology. The first session dealt with student oriented issues of cutting edge technological developments, internship opportunities and entrepreneurship. The second session dealt with technology related to economic development, from main-street business to rural and home-based business. The third session focused on success stories highlighting technology's role in agriculture, tourism and entrepreneurship.

Partners

- Southwest Nebraska RC & D
- McCook Economic Development Committee
- Mid Plains Community College
- Pinpoint Communications
- MNB insurance
- 21st Century Systems
- Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development

Funding

McCook EDC	\$4100
Mid Plains Community College	\$3500
Registrations	\$2000
Local Contributions	\$3350
RC&D TA	\$5400
TOTAL	\$18,350

Youth Entrepreneur Partnership



In its second year of operation, ten students from area schools are participating in mentoring programs that foster

business skills in youth. This proactive program seeks to stem the out-migration of young people from southwest Nebraska by instilling the knowledge that youth do not have to leave southwest Nebraska to be successful. Students complete a weekly in-class curriculum and work one-on-one with an adult mentor. The students also attended a weekend leadership retreat at Camp Comeca in the fall.

Partners

- The Nelson Institute
- Nebraska Rural Development Commission
- Southwest Community Builders
- McCook Community College
- Great Plains Communications
- Boy Scouts of America
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center for Applied Rural Innovation
- Local Sponsors
- Education Service Unit 15
- Southwest RC&D

Funding

The Nelson Institute	\$3600
McCook Community College	\$3600
Local volunteers	\$1200
RC&D TA	\$4500
TOTAL	\$12,900

Furnas-Harlan Partnership County

The partnership began in 2002 and the RC&D's portion of it completed this year. In those two years, it has incorporated and formed inter-local agreements with most communities in the two counties for the purpose of united economic development. The original impetus for this partnership came from Twin Valley Public Power. Many organizational entities use the Furnas/Harlan county line as a jurisdictional dividing line. Twin Valley serves both counties and found that this "dividing line" was often a hindrance in accomplishing community improvement projects. Since there are no large towns in the counties, it was further felt that pooling resources could possibly fund a full time economic developer for the partnership. The partnership is making significant progress toward that end.

Partners

- Twin Valley Public Power
- Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development
- Nebraska Public Power Districts
- Southwest RC&D

Funding

Local volunteers	\$9600
RC&D TA	\$2625
TOTAL	\$12,225

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Southwest RC&D portion of this six year project was completed this year. Former coordinator, Ron Daniels, Bill Elliott and the Red Willow County Commissioners, with assistance from the Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality, created a model hazardous waste collection program that has served 40 Nebraska counties. This is basically the western 2/3 of the state of Nebraska. It is conservatively estimated that this program has collected over 400,000 lbs. of hazardous waste in six years. Some of the waste has been salvaged for use in county projects, i.e. paint; some has been recycled into new material and the rest has been disposed of by ecologically sustainable methods and approved by the EPA. The HHW program continues, only the RC & D portion of it has been completed, but we stand at the ready to help with new phases, if needed.

Partners

- Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Middle Republican NRD
- Lower Republican NRD
- Local Volunteers
- Southwest RC&D

Funding

Nebraska Dept. of Env. Quality	\$117,400
Nebraska Environmental Trust	\$22,400
Middle Republican NRD	\$4000
Lower Republican NRD	\$350
Local volunteers	\$9370
<u>RC&D TA</u>	<u>\$11,750</u>
TOTAL	\$165,270

Republican River Riparian Project

The Southwest Nebraska RC&D Council is the initial sponsor for the Republican River Riparian Project, which will address the management of riparian area along the Republican River and its tributaries. Goals of the project are to foster cooperation between three states to develop a regional plan for the watershed; increase economic development throughout the area; increase the water quantity and quality within the watershed and increase educational opportunities in regard to water quantity and quality.

Currently, five RC&D councils, Southwest Nebraska, Trailblazer Nebraska, Northeast Colorado, Western Prairie Kansas and Solomon Valley Kansas, have joined RRRP. The advisory committee meets monthly to gather information, and all partners are invited to quarterly meetings.

The RRRP has adopted a action timeline and has submitted a \$150,000 grant proposal for Conservation Planning Initiative funding through USDA-NRCS. The proposal was prepared by RC&D's in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado and forwarded to each state's Conservation officer for approval and forwarded to the national office. The funding would be for 18 months of planning activities.

Partners

- USDA NRCS in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska
- Nebraska Natural Resources Districts
- Colorado Soil Conservation Districts
- Kansas Soil Conservation Districts
- Nebraska Game & Parks
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- United States Geological Survey
- Colorado Forest Service
- Trailblazer RC&D, Nebraska
- Northeast Colorado RC&D
- Western Prairie RC&D, Kansas
- Solomon Valley RC&D, Kansas

Funding

RC&D TA	\$ 10,800
<u>Local</u>	<u>\$ 3,520</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,320

2004 Project Photos



Southwest RC&D treasurer Bill Zahl presents Lori Cappel, former program support assistant and current assistant to Congressman Tom Osborn, a plaque for her eight years of service to the RC&D.



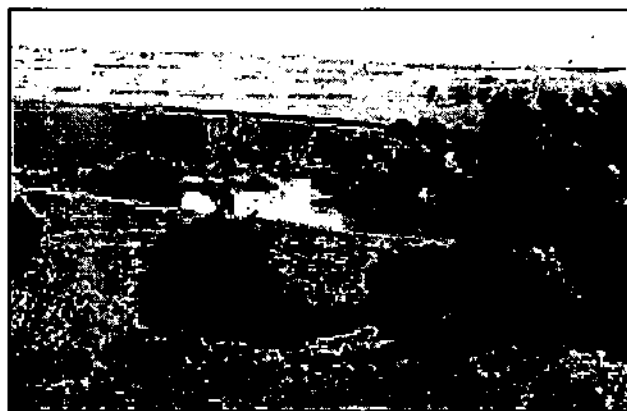
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Program director Bill Elliott (green cap) and volunteers collect hazardous waste at a collection point in Imperial, Neb.



Telefuture Technology Conference
About 100 students and 100 adults who wanted to learn more about technology attended the Telefuture Technology Conference at McCook Community College.



Youth Entrepreneur Partnership
Area entrepreneurs exhibited their wares - like "Mama's Salsa" - at the 2004 Opening Doors Alternative Ag conference.



Republican River Riparian Project
With increasing irrigation restrictions to comply with the Republican River Compact, many landowners and operators were considering removing all trees from the riparian areas of the river to conserve water. The Southwest RC&D adopted the Republican River Riparian Project to increase awareness and adoption of best management riparian practices to protect and enhance water quantity and quality in the Republican River basin.

FISCAL YEAR '04 COMPLETED PROJECTS

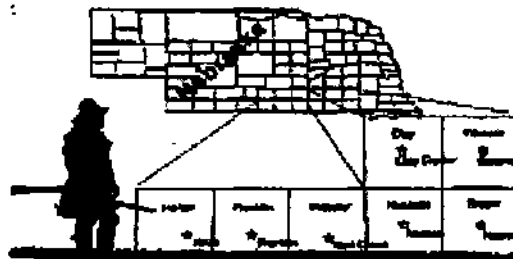
Project #	Name	RC&D T-A	Other Funds	Total Cost
NE-039	Household Hazardous Waste Program	\$11,750	\$153,520	\$165,270
NE-085	Eco-Beef Systems	420	1200	1620
NE-102	Travel Guide 2002	560	640	1200
NE-108	Local Food Initiative-AmeriCorps	750	23,600	24,350
NE-110	Furnas-Harlan Economic Dev. Partnership	2,625	9,600	12,225
NE-113	Youth Entrepreneur Partnership	30,000	74,450	104,450
NE-116	Nebraska Highway 6 Inventory	1,500	500	2,000
NE-118	Community Water Treatment Survey	3,300	21,175	24,475
NE-121	Ladies Golf Retreat	5,000	7,500	12,500
NE-123	McCook Farmer's Market	1,550	2,250	3,800
NE-125	NE RC&D Assoc. Strategic Plan	750	1,980	2,730
NE-126	Entrepreneur Internship	3,000	2,500	5,500
NE-132	Tele-Future Conference 04	5,400	12,950	18,350
NE-133	Medicine Creek Demonstration Project	1,275	1,050	2,325
NE-136	Ogallala Water Conference	300	140	440
NE-139	TCDC Fund Drive 03	350	750	1,100
NE-141	Tri-State Initiative Conference	3,000	2,400	5,400
NE-142	Xeriscaping Workshop	2,400	925	3,325
NE-148	Rural Water Meeting	1,650	5,500	7,150
TOTAL		\$75,580	\$322,630	\$398,210

FISCAL YEAR '04 ON-GOING PROJECTS

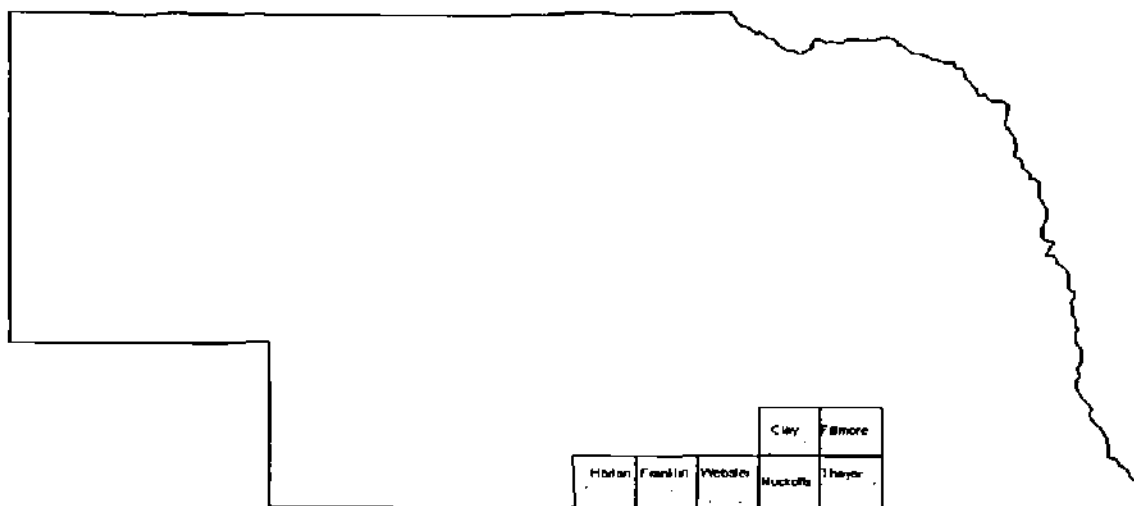
Project #	Name	RC&D T-A	Other Funds	Total Cost
NE-120	Perkins County Animal Shelter	300	22,200	22,500*
NE-122	Republican River Riparian Project	4,500	1,440	5,940
NE-124	Rural Business Investment Corp.	300	2,400	2,700
NE-127	Tourism Advisory Committee	1,500	5,000	6,500*
NE-128	Targeted Opportunity Program	2,500	25,000	27,500*
NE-130	Opening Doors Small Business Workshop	5,000	15,000	20,000*
NE-134	Promotional Placemats	2,000	5,000	7,000*
NE-135	Highway 6 Marketing Campaign	1,350	10,000	11,350*
NE-137	Republican River Habitat Initiative	2,500	111,000	113,500*
NE-138	K-12 Arbor Day Workshop	300	2,500	2,800*
NE-140	Youth Entrepreneur Partnership 2004	3,000*	30,000*	33,000*
NE-143	Edge Triangle	500*	5,000*	5,500*
NE-144	Ladies Golf Retreat '04	500*	8,000	8,500*
NE-145	Household Hazardous Waste	1,000*	15,000*	16,000*
NE-146	Nebraska Rural Institute '04	500*	12,500*	13,000*
NE-147	Bio-pharmaceutical meeting	500*	2,500*	3,000*
NE-149	Alternative Income Opportunities	3,000*	30,000*	33,000*
TOTAL		\$29,250	\$302,540	\$331,790

* Estimated project expenses (cash and in-kind)

Trailblazer RC&D



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www.trailrcd.org



Trailblazer RC&D brings together local volunteers and community development professionals to tackle issues affecting the vitality of south central Nebraska's rural communities.

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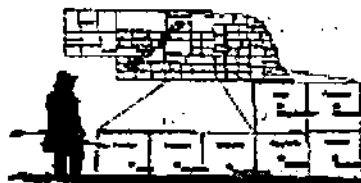
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Trailblazer RC&D

Area Description

The Trailblazer RC&D consists of seven counties in south central Nebraska: Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Harlan, Nuckolls, Thayer and Webster. Five of these seven counties are in the lower half of all Nebraska counties in household income.

This predominantly rural area has a declining population of roughly 38,500. Superior is the largest city in the area with a population of 2,390. Three major cities, Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney, border the Trailblazer RC&D area.

Crop and livestock production are the predominant economic forces in the area. Tourism potential in the area is excellent with its many historical sites and outdoor recreation facilities. The largest industrial employer is an irrigation manufacturer by Deshler that hires 200 people. The median age of the population is 40.7 - 7.7 years older than the state average.

Priorities of Trailblazer RC&D

- Protect the quality and quantity of all natural resources in the area.
- Stabilize and enhance the economy with economic development activities.
- Ensure adequate, affordable, attractive and quality residential and business properties in the area.
- Ensure quality health care and human services for all residents in the area.
- Develop recreational facilities and a tourism industry that encourages residents and non-residents to vacation in the area.

Summary of 2004 Activities

- 10 monthly council meetings with 12 guest speakers
- 18 project/committee meetings
- 10 new projects
- 12 completed projects
- 24 on-going projects
- 70 partners, which include federal, state, regional, local and media
- 1,120 council member hours contributed
- 1,600 volunteer hours contributed
- Hosted third annual meeting.

2004 Project Highlights

Career Day Expo

The ninth annual Career Day Expo program was another huge success with 1,200 students from 32 area schools in attendance.

The event was held at Central Community College campus in Hastings with many volunteers assisting from surrounding communities. The primary focus of the program was to make youth aware of career opportunities available in rural Nebraska and reduce the out-migration of graduating seniors.

Thirty-six different occupational booths were available for hands-on experience. Each student selected four different sessions to visit.

A special general session for all students was held with guest speakers Glennis McClure and Jeff Reynolds talking about entrepreneurship and business plan preparation. They both stressed the importance of youth retention in our area.

Partners:

- Central Community College
- Hastings Chamber of Commerce
- South Central RC&D

Funding:

RC&D TA	\$1,000
Other	\$8,000

Fish Pond Restoration

A pond south of Red Cloud, Nebraska, has been dredged and developed to maximize its potential for recreation. The pond was formed by the disastrous flood of 1935 after a barn washed into a stand of trees and was lodged there by the rushing water. Water running under and around the structure scoured out the dirt below, creating a twenty-foot deep pond. However, over the years, the pond has silted back in leaving only a three-foot water pool.

A grant for \$15,000 was obtained by the RC&D through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to restore the pond back to its original depth. Additional funds were obtained when Great Plains Communication offered a challenge grant to the City of Red Cloud, which was matched.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission presently own the property surrounding the pond and have stocked it with fish. The next phase of

the project will include developing handicapped accessible entities, such as concrete trails, a dock, a footbridge, and picnic tables.

This pond will make an excellent fishing hole for Red Cloud and surrounding areas. In addition, it is located along Highway 281 and will make a nice attraction for tourists.

Partners:

- Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- City of Red Cloud

Funding:

RC&D TA	\$ 3,000
DEQ Grant	\$15,000
Local In-kind	\$12,000
Great Plains Communication	\$ 3,000

Eighth Annual Women's Wilderness Weekend

The "Women's Wilderness Weekend" program was designed not only to increase tourism but also to make women aware of the many outdoor recreation opportunities available to them.

The three-day event was held at the South Central 4-H Camp, located on Harlan County Reservoir. One hundred fifteen women attended outdoor sessions, which included, canoeing, fishing, hunting, sailing, black powder and muzzle loading, an overnight camp out, horse back riding, map and compass, skiing, outdoor photography, self defense, an Iron Women competition, and astronomy. There was also time for fun with entertainment consisting of a beach party, singing, steak fry and a bonfire.

A registration fee of \$150.00 was required. However, \$50.00 scholarships were made available to women in need from Safari Club International. A large number of door prizes were also made available from area businesses.

Partners:

- Cooperative Extension
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Lower Republican NRD
- Little Blue NRD
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Cabela's
- Safari Club International
- Harlan County Tourism
- Webster County Resources Foundation

Funding:

RC&D TA	\$ 5,000
Other	\$25,000

Low Water Boat-Ramp Constructed

Harlan County Reservoir has had record low water levels the past few years. Because of this low water, the lake had only one usable boat ramp on the entire lake. This single boat ramp became very congested and dangerous on busy weekends, particularly if high winds or a storm blew in quickly. By adding a second ramp on the other side of the lake, it alleviated boat concentration and allowed for a much quicker evacuation of the lake if adverse weather conditions occurred.

The Army Corps of Engineers approached the Trailblazer RC&D Council requesting assistance for construction of a new ramp. Grant funding for the amount of \$16,000 was secured through the Sports Fish Restoration Program, administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Matching funds of \$6,000 was provided by the Harlan County Lake Association and in-kind

service provided by the Corps of Engineers. A local bank provided interim funding until the project was completed. The RC&D administered the money transactions and contracting of the project.

Partners:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Harlan County Lake Association
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Commercial State Bank

Funding:

RC&D TA	\$ 5,000
NE Game & Parks Commission	\$16,000
Harlan County Lake Assoc.	\$ 6,000

Noxious Weed Task Force Formed

The Trailblazer RC&D recently formed a regional Noxious Weed Task Force. Primary weeds of concern were leafy spurge, saltcedar, phragmites, and purple loosestrife. These troublesome weeds are not very prevalent in our area yet. However, there are confirmed areas that are appearing and the committee wants to be pro-active and get on top of the problem before it gets too large.

The task force has prepared and adopted "Standard Operating Procedures" and will be under the auspices of the RC&D Bylaws. A grant for \$500 was received from the Pioneer Seed Foundation in addition to other contributions. A "Pulling Together Initiative" grant proposal has been submitted in the amount of \$55,400. The project has had excellent "buy in" from all state and federal agencies as well as landowners throughout the area.

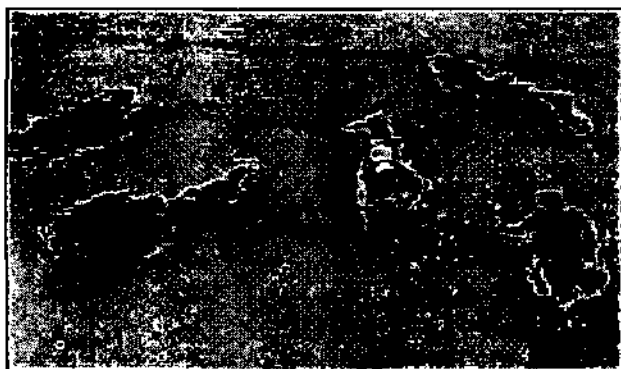
Partners:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Cooperative Extension
- NRDs
- County Weed Agents
- NRCS
- Bostwick Irrigation District
- NE Department of Ag
- Pheasants Forever

Funding:

RC&D TA	\$5,000
U.S. Corps of Engineers	\$2,500
LRNRD	\$ 100
Pioneer Seed Foundation	\$ 500
Pulling Together Initiative	\$55,400 (pending)

2004 Project Photos



Women's Wilderness Weekend

Scuba diving, which is held at the Alma swimming pool, attracts many participants each year.



Noxious Weed Task Force

Members of the Noxious Weed Task Force inspect Harlan County Lake area for infestations of salicedar.



Fish Pond Restoration

Indian Creek Fish Pond, which was recently constructed south of Red Cloud, will provide fishing opportunities for local youth.



Low Water Boat Ramp Constructed

A new boat ramp was completed at Harlan County Reservoir with grant assistance through the Sports Fisheries Program administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.



Career Day EXPO

Students interested in auto mechanics listen tentatively to the instructor at one of the many sessions offered.



Hazardous Waste Cleanup

Volunteers sort through the muck and yuck to determine what materials are to be recycled.

Fiscal Year '04 completed Projects

<i>Project</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
NE-6511-181-04081	Career Day Expo	\$1,000	\$8,000	\$9,000
NE-6511-181-04076	Women's Wilderness Weekend	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
NE-6511-181-04092	Annual Banquet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
NE-6511-181-02061	Indian Creek Pond	\$4,000	\$30,000	\$34,000
NE-6511-181-04088	Food, Land and People	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
NE-6511-181-04083	Hunter Cove Boat Ramp	\$2,000	\$25,000	\$27,000
NE-6511-181-04080	Area Plan	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
NE-6511-181-04082	Grant Writing Workshop	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$4,000
NE-6511-181-04085	E-Commerce Workshop	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
NE-6511-181-04086	Legacy Account	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
NE-6511-181-04077	Business Visitation Surveys	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$5,500
NE-6511-181-032	Gremlin Cove Recreation Area	\$1,000	\$110,000	\$111,000
TOTAL		\$22,500	\$219,000	\$241,500

On-Going Projects

<i>Project #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
NE-6511-181-002	Bostwick Irrigation District	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000
NE-6511-181-017	South Central Health Alliance	\$500	\$3,000	\$3,500
NE-6511-181-019	REAP	\$500	\$7,000	\$7,500
NE-6511-181-028	Rural Water District	\$2,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,502,000
NE-6511-181-030	Scenic Byways-Hwy 136	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
NE-6511-181-034	Legalizing Hemp	\$0	\$500	\$500
NE-6511-181-040	Guide Rock Assisted Living	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
NE-6511-181-041	Environmental Classroom	\$200	\$4,000	\$4,200
NE-6511-181-049	Hwy 14 Byway	\$200	\$2,000	\$2,200
NE-6511-181-04093	Women's Wilderness Weekend-04	\$2,000	\$18,000	\$20,000
NE-6511-181-04094	Career Day Expo-04	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
NE-6511-181-02068	Water Jamboree	\$500	\$4,000	\$4,500
NE-6511-181-02069	Household Hazardous Waste	\$2,500	\$60,000	\$62,500
NE-6511-181-02070	Harlan/Furnas Economic Coalition	\$500	\$5,000	\$5,500
NE-6511-181-02072	Highway 6 Byway	\$200	\$2,000	\$2,200
NE-6511-181-03072	South Central Economic Dev.	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$9,500
NE-6511-181-03071	South Central Vision Task Force	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$4,000
NE-6511-181-03076	Republican River Riparian Proj.	\$2,000	\$20,000	\$22,000
NE-6511-181-03079	Republican River Habitat Initiative	\$2,000	\$20,000	\$22,000
NE-6511-181-04084	Meth Awareness Task Force	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
NE-6511-181-04089	Business Beyond the Farm	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
NE-6511-181-04095	Annual Banquet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
NE-6511-181-04078	Noxious Weed Task Force	\$3,500	\$75,000	\$78,500
NE-6511-181-04087	Republican River Turkey Hunt	\$4,000	\$18,000	\$22,000
TOTAL		\$31,100	\$3,798,500	\$3,829,600

Future Project Needs

<i>Project #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>RC&D Share</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
NE-6511-181-019	REAP	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,500
NE-6511-181-002	Bostwick Irrigation	\$3,000	\$30,000	\$33,000
NE-6511-181-02061	Bostwick Community Service Proj.	\$3,000	\$60,000	\$63,000
Proposed	Career Day Expo	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Proposed	EDGE Program	\$500	\$2,500	\$3,000
Proposed	Household Hazardous Waste	\$5,000	\$60,000	\$65,000
Proposed	Resource Providers Workshop	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Proposed	ATV Trail	\$5,000	\$120,000	\$125,000
TOTAL		\$20,500	\$289,000	\$309,500



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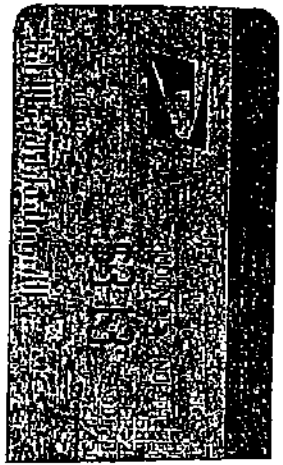
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